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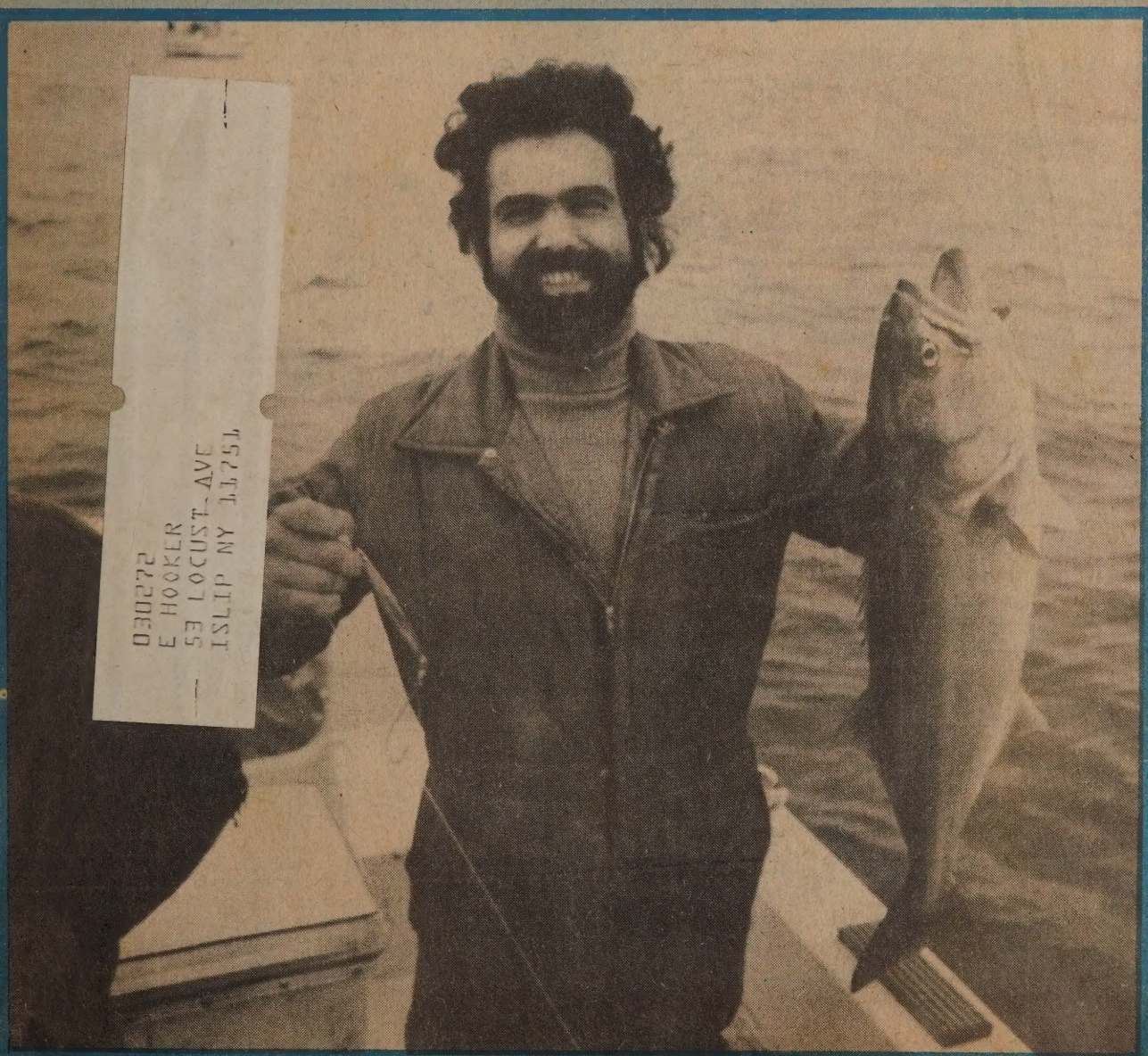
The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

AUGUST 11th, 1977, ISSUE No. 30



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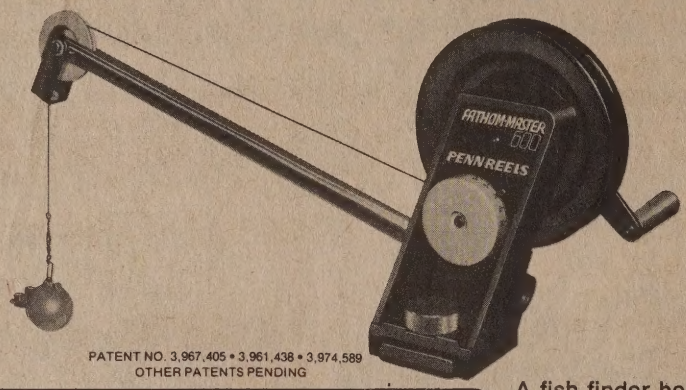

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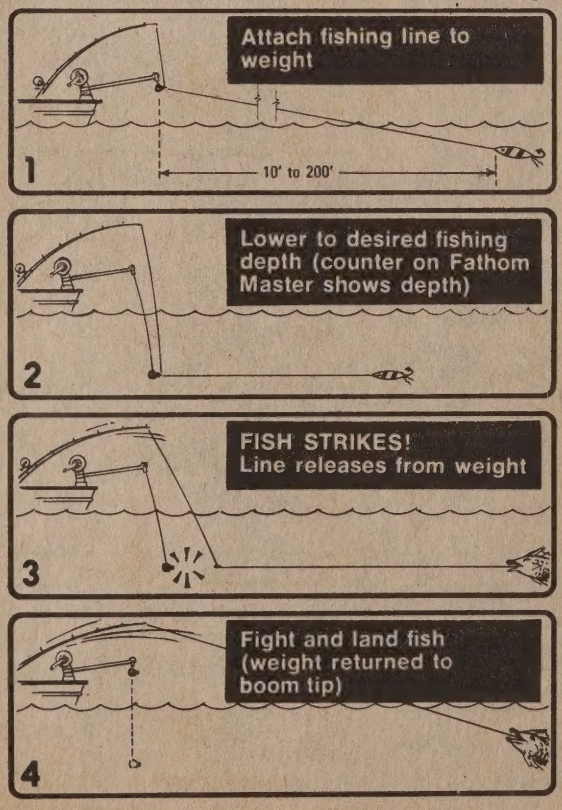
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PENN REELS

CHUM LINES

International Game Fish Assoc. Supports Doc Muller for Seat on Management Council

Dear Secretary Kreps: (U.S. Department of Commerce)—We understand that Governor Hugh Carey from the State of New York has nominated Dr. William Muller for appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

As editor of THE LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN, a major fishing publication, Dr. Muller has a vast and diversified knowledge of the fisheries in the waters that this Council is concerned with.

There is no question about Dr. Muller's being able to substantially contribute to the fishery deliberations. His appointment would definitely help to strengthen this Council. Elwood K. Harry, President.

We at The Fisherman would like to thank the I.G.F.A. for their support, and also would like to thank the many State and Federal Senators, Representatives and Assemblymen that have recommended that Doc be seated on the Council. Hopefully, the patronage involved in one of the first appointments of Gov. Carey won't be repeated next year, and Long Island sportfishermen will finally have a representative of their interests sitting on the Council, which was formed as a result of the 200 Mile Limit legislation that FISHERMEN introduced, lobbied for, and had passed. Scott S.

ANISE ATTRACTS FISH?

I recently received a report from the University of Wisconsin dealing with Great Lakes Salmon. (You may recall I've been trying to track down how to make Lox or Nova Lox, for sometime.) In that report they said to use anise to attract the fish on bait. When I wrote back asking for verification of the effectiveness of the use of anise, I received a reply from them. I almost forgot it, until your June 16 paper said the same thing with respect to carp fishing. They had searched all over to find the source of their statement, but were unable to find it. So can you help us out here, by giving us the source of YOUR statement?

Also, the current issue of Field & Stream has a feature on the importance of the acidity or alkalinity of water to fish ... and fishermen. (July '77 issue.) The author has been working for ten years at the University of Oklahoma with all freshwater fish, but included land-locked stripers. His work says the PH value is far more important than oxygen levels or even salinity, with respect to stripers—and top this, the fish favor the alkaline range far more than acid ...so how come everybody goes through hell or high water to get to the acid flats? Any ideas? P.S. - I saw a fisherman at Jones Beach this Sunday catch a three-foot sand

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VOL. 12, No. 30 AUGUST 11th, 1977

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About the Cover—

Mike *"the G"* feels like a kid let loose in a pizza joint as he hefts one of the many mid-teen bluefish he caught at Cartwright last September. See the article *"Montauk Bluefishing"* on page 14.

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
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Dr. William A. Muller — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Al Ristori — CONSERVATION EDITOR
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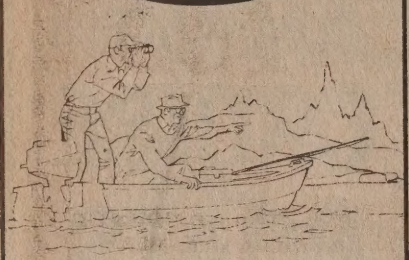

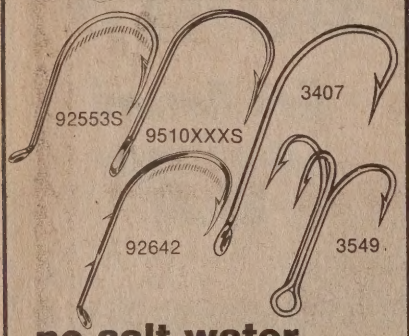

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EDITORIAL

★★★

shark, kill it and cover it with sand. Some jerk! As your columns have suggested—and I have tried—it is probably the best eating thing that can come off your line, if you know what you're doing.
Thomas D. Moder

I know that the big thing in fish baits today is anise. However, I remember that as a youngster I used vanilla extract in my carp bait and did very well. I believe that fish respond well to certain smells and turn off to others. Some fish prefer to hunt by vibrations and sight, and these fish often care very little about high-powered scents. I also have no idea as to the origin of the use of scents in fishing, but I'll bet it goes a long way back. How about you, readers? Do any of you know the origins of this technique? As far as pH values go, oxygen levels and pH levels are related and so is temperature. All three factors are far more important in freshwater than in the salt, because tidal forces tend to mix the inshore water very well. However, offshore may be a different matter and I'm sure that you know a low oxygen, cold water layer has plagued the offshore grounds for two years in a row! Dr. W. A. Muller

CLUB NEWS

HUNTINGTON ANGLERS' BASS DERBY RESULTS

The results of the Striped Bass Derby held between the Mill River Rod & Gun Club of Bayville and the Huntington Anglers' Club was a clean sweep for Mill River.

1st Prize—Tom Zwolinski - Bass, 19 lbs. 13 ozs.; 2nd Prize—John Zwolinski - Bass 17 lbs. 4 ozs.; 3rd Prize—Tom Zwolinski - Bass 16 lbs. 10 ozs.

Contest held this past weekend: 6 PM Friday to 9 AM Sunday. Winners are cousins. Fish caught in Glen Cove on bunkers. Only three fish weighed. Fish had to be over 15 lbs. to qualify. Both fished separately. Huntington Anglers' caught a couple of fish under 15 lbs.

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The monthly recycle drive of the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island will be held Saturday, August 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Pathmark parking field on Merrick Road in Seaford. Look for the Ecology flag.

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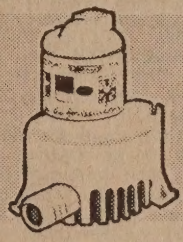

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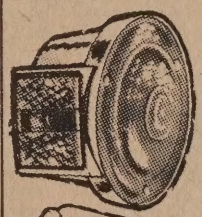

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

FATE OF BILLFISH & SHARKS AT STAKE

As noted in this column several times, the efforts of the fishery management councils to protect billfish from the Japanese longline fleets has been hampered by State Department interpretation of the 200 Mile Limit law. That law specifically exempts tuna from its coverage, though Congress made it clear that all other species came completely under our control. While there is no question about our inability to deal with tuna unilaterally, State has interpreted the law to mean that we can't control the activities of the Japanese longliners who are fishing for tuna, even though they take great numbers of billfish, sharks and other species under our control in the process.

The councils have contended that our duty to protect resources other than tuna, mandates control of foreign longliners—the principal exploiters of billfish and sharks—along with sportfishermen! In the case of swordfish, it's likely that our domestic longliners and harpooners have the greatest effect on population levels. In order to clear up the confusion created by the tuna exemption (and also to control the increasingly desperate bluefin tuna situation), several of the councils have requested a change in the law to bring all species within the 200 Mile Limit under our control. Unfortunately, the commercial tuna industry still opposes such action, as they fear foreign retaliation and the loss of any Government protection within other countries' 200 Mile Limits. I believe the first point has little merit, as the other countries involved already have 200 Mile Limits which include control over tuna and, unlike the United States, they invariably base such decisions on their own best national interest—not what some other country does! The second point is more valid: the tuna industry still retains the protection of the Fishermen's Protective Act, but removing the tuna exemption would eliminate the last vestige of reason for permitting our fishermen to violate the 200 Mile Limits of other countries, just because their laws don't conform to ours. As it is, the Fishermen's Protective Act, which used to fly through Congress almost without question, barely survived a tough battle in the House of Representatives in June.

Given the political fact that nothing is likely to be done about the tuna exemption in the near future, the next best move is to impose such regulations upon the foreign longliners as are possible under the act. For sometime, the Councils have urged the Commerce Department to implement a Preliminary Management Plan which would prevent retention of billfish by foreign longliners. Apparently due to State Department objections, Commerce seemed reluctant to go ahead with the plan devised by NMFS scientists. However, State now seems convinced that this is a reasonable approach, and Commerce is moving ahead quickly. Public hearings will be held throughout the five council regions concerned with the Atlantic Plan (New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf), while the Pacific Plan will be discussed from California to Guam. A listing of the hearing dates in this area will appear at the end of this article.

Basically, the PMP provides that all billfish taken by foreign ships must be "returned to the water in such a manner as to ensure maximum probability of survival." I have suggested that the words "returned to" be changed to "tagged and released in." During our discussions with the Japanese longliners last winter, they indicated a willingness to release the billfish, and even to tag them, but seemed very reluctant to lose their hooks in the process. They claimed they could bring the fish aboard and do this. However, anyone familiar with Japanese longliners and the amount of handling a billfish can be subjected to and still survive, can testify that such a system will not work. The fish must be tagged in the water and the leader cut if the fish are to have a fair chance of survival, and the whole operation to be something more than a charade.

Originally, there was also a gear limitation in the PMP. In fact, it's still there, but is eliminated by the errata sheet attached to the latest draft. Ironically, this restriction (that longline gear be rigged so that no hooks will fish at depths of less than 100 meters) was suggested by the Japanese industry people at our informal meetings this winter. Their highline captain felt this would serve to eliminate most billfish catches, while still allowing for good yellowfin and big-eye tuna hauls—the prime object of their fishery. However, the Japanese Government contends that not all captains agree that this won't hurt their tuna catches, and want no gear restrictions. The State Department also seemed concerned that a gear restriction could be interpreted as an interference with their tuna fishery. While we aren't adamant on this point, I'm convinced it's a legitimate means for cutting down on the number of hooked billfish and, therefore, should be retained in the Plan.

Another bone of contention in the Plan, is the requirement that all vessels fishing in the zone must have permits issued by the Secretary of Commerce. State is dead set against this as they feel it will constitute a restriction on tuna fishing—even if the permit is free. The councils feel that proper enforcement is impossible if some fishing vessels in our zone can do as they please—simply by saying they are fishing for tuna. This may turn out to be a moot point, as the Plan also incorporates a shark quota: if the Japanese wish to take advantage of this, they'll have to obtain a permit under the law.

It is the portion relating to sharks which has caused me the greatest concern. Unfortunately, most of our goverment officials are unaware of the importance of many species of sharks to our sportfishing industry. I suspect that 90 percent of the big game fishing done off the New York/New Jersey coasts these days is for sharks—a fact that won't change unless the white marlin and bluefin tuna stage a great comeback in our waters. The Japanese have been killing untold numbers of sharks on their longlines for many years. All they want from them are their fins, which are dried and sold as a delicacy; the rest of the fish is discarded. While the Japanese have extensive records on their tuna and billfish catches, they don't seem to have any idea of the numbers or types of sharks they kill.

The PMP lists the MSY (maximum sustained yield) of sharks at 41,000 metric tons. After deducting U.S. capacity, the foreign quota is set at 31,083 metric tons; I've objected to this on many grounds. Most importantly, there is no scientific data upon which to even make a reasonable guess at the MSY for sharks. There have been few American commercial fisheries for sharks, and sportfishing statistics are vague. Secondly, it is even more unscientific to treat all sharks as if they were one species. Throwing makos, blues, tigers, oceanic white-tips, etc., into the same pot, is as reasonable as establishing a quota for all bony fishes—as opposed to the sharks, which have cartilage. Fortunately, the scientists who prepared this plan agreed with my objections, and promised to consult with Jack Casey and make appropriate changes before the plan is finalized. Nevertheless, it's essential that every angler interested in maintaining a healthy shark fishery attend the meeting in his area and insist on changes in the shark quota which will protect the species important to our sportfisheries!

During the week of July 18-22, I served as part of the U.S. delegation (representing the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council) in State Department negotiations with the Japanese. The main item in our discussions was the PMP and its effects on the Japanese longliners. Naturally, the Japanese weren't happy with the plan and raised many objections. It was my impression that they felt they could delay the plan by stalling and, therefore, retain the status quo. In our delegation meetings, I made the point repeatedly that the Japanese are already violating the law when they retain any fish other than tuna in our waters. Even though we don't have a specific plan as yet, the law clearly prohibits foreign vessels from taking any species for which they have no permit. We could, and should, be enforcing the law now; the fact that we aren't is simply a matter of good will. Though Al Zucca, State Department Fisheries negotiator, did a good job of presenting our side, he just couldn't bring himself to confront the Japanese with that very important point!

As a result of the points I brought up relative to sharks, NMFS representative, Carmen Blondin, told the Japanese that the shark quotas listed in the PMP were in doubt, and suggested that such important species as makos would probably be protected. Needless to say, the Japanese were upset and found it hard to believe that we were so concerned about sharks. It's quite true that in some areas we may actually want the longliners to reduce the shark populations; however, that's clearly not the case here, or in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico—where shark meat sells for over $1 a pound!

Though State didn't go along with all the proposals of the Council representatives, the very fact that we were included in the negotiations and had all the opportunity we desired to express ourselves, is a good sign of the changing times. State has traditionally been the "enemy" in our fisheries battles. We fought them for years in the effort to get the 200 Mile Limit, and still have our differences in interpretation of the law, but now we're at least operating as part of the same team—and, hopefully, the results will prove the impact of the new relationship.

The PMP hearings will be divided into two sections. The first will be conducted by NMFS, and involves only the PMP for billfish and pelagic sharks—a plan applying only to foreigners. The second portion of the hearing will relate to comments on the South Atlantic Council's Final Management Plan for Bill-

fish—a plan which will affect the domestic fishery. This plan won't be completed until the winter, but the basic areas for discussion were decided on at our recent Billfish Steering Committee meeting in Charleston, S.C. It would be helpful if you came prepared to comment on these important points.

The first item in the proposed plan is my suggestion that billfishing be restricted to sportfishing (rod and reel), with the exception of swordfish. There is presently no commercial fishery for marlin and sailfish in the Continental United States, so this proposal shouldn't adversely affect anyone at the present time. Nevertheless, it's important to keep in mind that billfish do bring good prices in other parts of the world, and it's not inconceivable that a domestic longline fishery could spring up in the future if we don't take precautions now!

Another important point will be restrictions on sportfishing. The basic question is whether to have any. Surprisingly, it was the two charter captains at our last meeting (Capt. Billy Putnam, Panama City, Fla. - Gulf Council, and Capt. Johnny Harms, Virgin Islands - Caribbean Council) who pushed hard for bag limits. I'm not convinced that such regulations are necessary in our area, as catches have been minimal for several years and most sportsmen release the majority of their white marlin already. Nevertheless, this may be an important point in other areas.

A controversial point will be the establishment of a data retrieval system. This means that, as with giant tuna, some sort of licensing system will have to be established in order to determine just how many billfish are being caught. Without accurate data, it's impossible to manage the resource properly. Just how this will be done is up in the air. We presume the license will be issued to boats, not individuals—but should it be free? Your comments will help us make these decisions.

The final controversial point was whether to include swordfish in the FMP. While the other billfish are strictly of concern to the sportsman at the present time, there is a well-established commercial fishery for swordfish—both by longline and harpoon. There's also a rapidly building sportfishery in South Florida, where great numbers of swordfish are being taken by drifting in the Gulf Stream at night. A further complication is the proposed reporting requirement. The Federal Drug Administration presently bans the interstate shipment of swordfish, as they are invariably too high in mercury content. Of course, there's never been any incidence of damage to human health from eating swordfish, and the mercury levels established are strictly arbitrary. Nevertheless, the FDA ruling is clear—and they've recently expanded their definition of "Interstate" to include any swordfish **caught** outside of three miles. In effect, that covers every swordfish caught and sold—no matter where. Since the market for swords remains good, the selling will continue and any reporting requirement we establish will mean that the fisherman will be admitting to a crime.

Obviously, there are great problems involved in including swordfish in the plan. Yet, can we simply ignore the billfish that is under the greatest pressure? The Committee split 5-4 on this issue, and your comments will have a very important effect on the final decision. Your comments relative to the FMP do not have to be limited to these points—we're interested in anything you have to say. If possible, prepare a written statement and supply a few copies. Your verbal presentation can then be a summary of the written material that will appear in the official record.

The important point is to be there! I fought hard to get the process speeded up in order that hearings could be held in our area during the summer, when all those interested in billfish and sharks are in the vicinity. I believe I'm representing the best interests of Mid-Atlantic fishermen, but I can't be sure until I hear it from you. We all worked hard to bring a special form of democracy to fisheries management. Now it's up to you to make it work by getting to this meeting!

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August 19—Omni International, Norfolk, Virginia

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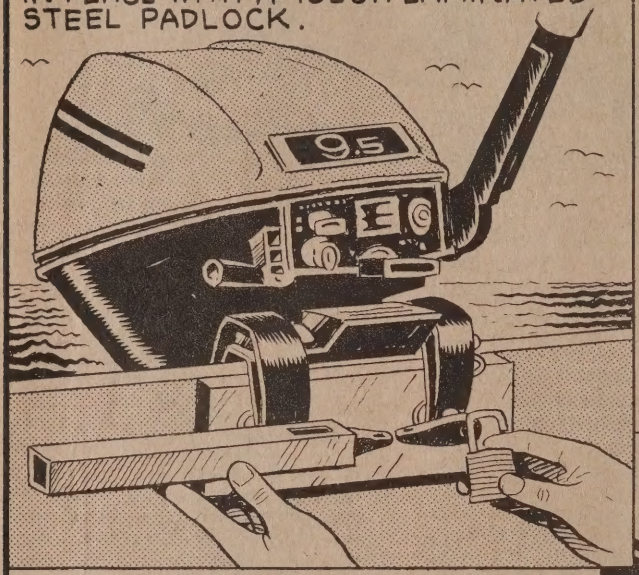
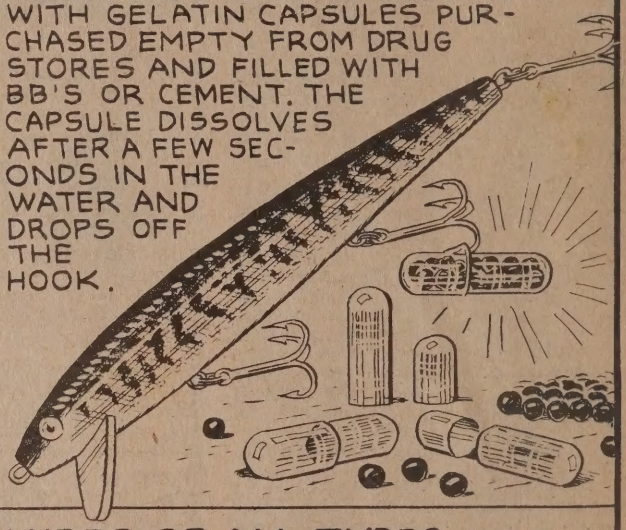
FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

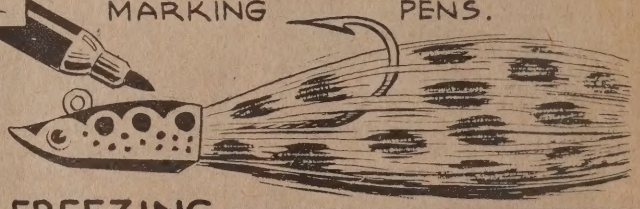
HOW TO LOCK ON AN OUTBOARD. THE ARMORED STEEL TUBE OF THE *MASTER OUTBOARD MOTOR LOCK* SLIPS OVER THE CLAMPSCREW HANDLES OF YOUR OUTBOARD MOTOR...AND IS LOCKED IN PLACE WITH A TOUGH LAMINATED STEEL PADLOCK.



SURFCASTER'S TIP. TOO LIGHT TO CAST FROM THE BEACH, THE POPULAR REBEL PLUG IS BEING WEIGHTED WITH GELATIN CAPSULES PURCHASED EMPTY FROM DRUG STORES AND FILLED WITH BB'S OR CEMENT. THE CAPSULE DISSOLVES AFTER A FEW SECONDS IN THE WATER AND DROPS OFF THE HOOK.

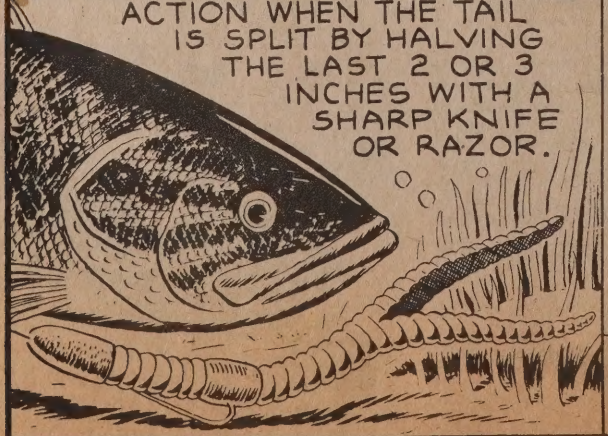


LURES OF ALL TYPES CAN BE RE-COLORED, TINTED AND PATTERNED BY USING WATERPROOF FELT-TIP MARKING PENS.

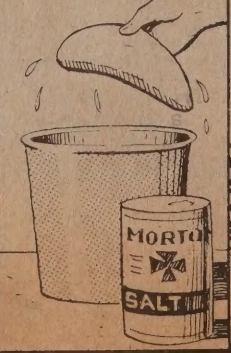


HOT FRESHWATER BASS PLUGS FOR TWO SEASONS HAVE BEEN DEEP DIVING SMALL COPIES OF THE *"BIG-O"* OF SEVERAL YEARS AGO. AN OVERSIZE LIP MAKES THE BRIGHTLY COLORED PLUG DIVE INSTANTLY AND VERTICALLY. IT IS MADE BY AT LEAST 10 LURE MANUFACTURERS.

PLASTIC WORMS GIVE ADDED FLUTTERING ACTION WHEN THE TAIL IS SPLIT BY HALVING THE LAST 2 OR 3 INCHES WITH A SHARP KNIFE OR RAZOR.



FREEZING FISH. THE FLESH WILL REMAIN FIRM AFTER THAWING IF THE FILLETS ARE DIPPED IN A SALT SOLUTION BEFORE FREEZING. USE 1/4 CUP OF SALT TO ONE QUART OF WATER.



SUN GLASSES. NEUTRAL GRAY PROVIDES THE BEST COLOR VISIBILITY IN SUN GLASSES BECAUSE THERE IS NO COLOR DISTORTION IN A WELL MADE LENS.

FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

BLUEFISH
Pomatomus saltatrix
★ PART THREE ★

NOT TOO MANY COMMON NAMES. The bluefish seems to have escaped the plethora of common names bestowed on most popular species. Still, anglers in their wisdom have assigned a few names according to size. We briefly touched upon this in another part of this series, but we thought that this might be a good time to explain these terms. Snappers are bluefish from the size of fry until they reach about one pound in weight. This may vary from place to place, but seems to have general usage. In Chesapeake Bay, fishermen apply the word "tailor" to blues of all sizes. In the New York Metropolitan Area, they may be called snappers or snapper blues until they reach a size of about three pounds. Bluefish are "tailor" blues in most areas from the size of one pound to about two pounds; Bluefish in the three to five pound class are commonly called "harbor" blues. In most areas these fish will be called simply bluefish from four or five pounds, until they reach a size of about ten pounds. In the last five years, many truly huge blues have been available. These specimens, weighing from ten pounds to as high as thirty pounds, were originally referred to as "slammer" blues back in the 1960s and the size of these generally ranged up to the mid-teens. But the blues kept getting bigger and the term "slammer" just didn't seem to do them justice; so some dude came up with the word "alligators" and in some places, "gorillas." These blues are, then, those from the high teens to—well, the sky's the limit.

THE WORLD RECORD. The all-tackle record was established just a few years ago and I suspect that it will stand for sometime. That fish weighed in at thirty-one pounds, twelve ounces and was taken in Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina. Until the 1950s, few bluefish of better than fifteen pounds ever were taken. Most anglers believed that the species simply didn't get that big. When Phil Chasin weighed in a fish at Montauk Point that weighed twenty pounds in 1951, it created quite a stir. Then fish in the twenties began to be taken with regularity on big lures and live bait. Each plateau created a lot of excitement and discussion. So maybe I'm being naive when I say that 31 pounds will be hard to beat—we'll see.

EXACT GROWTH AND AGE RELATIONSHIPS ARE NOT WELL KNOWN. However, there are some good estimates. A one-year-old fish is thought to weigh between fourteen ounces and a pound-and-a-half. This would seem to be a good and accurate beginning, so let's see where it takes us.

INCHES	POUNDS	AGE (Years)
14	1	1
17	2	1½
20-21	3	2-3
28-30	7-9	6-9
30-35	10-14+	9-11+

ANOTHER OFFSHORE MIGRANT. Watch out, Russians—don't take our bluefish too, or, how come in over a decade of heavy dragging on the Continental Shelf that you haven't depleted our stocks? Slowly, but surely, our understanding of the migration patterns of marine game fish is improving. The inshore-offshore migration habit is most common; however, with bluefish, there are some modifications. Unlike other inshore-offshore migrants that seem to swarm inshore when the waters warm, appear in most areas almost simultaneously, and please anglers, blues seem to swarm inshore at specific locations. For our area, one of the most important sites for staging is the middle Atlantic region just north of Chesapeake Bay; blues will appear in these waters as early as late April. They will slowly spread northward, chasing mackerel and bunker schools. By late May, they are usually taken in good numbers as far north as the Barnegat Light. Then they will continue northward and appear in the New York Metropolitan Area during July. At the same time, another body of fish swarms toward the Massachusetts shore and may appear in those waters in May. Thus, the blues advance like an army. They sweep inshore, heading basically west, and then turn to the north finally swinging northeast to reach waters of New York Bight and Long Island Sound by midsummer. Lucky anglers in parts of Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. They don't have to wait for the fish to spread out before they get into fish because they are on a direct line of sight for the inshore migration.

FUNNY THING THOUGH! Last year we had a lot of reports of deep water bluefish. Hold on, I know that blues are supposed to be chummed and trolled in fairly deep waters. But isn't forty fathoms a bit too deep? Shark fishermen who regularly chum the ocean off our Coast, found a depressing situation. They couldn't escape the blues. That's depressing? Well, I guess when you spend hundreds of dollars on gas, chum, rods, reels, and special electronics, you aren't overjoyed to catch bluefish. Skippers reported that the ocean at the forty-fathom depth area was glutted with butterfish, squid, and other miniature delights.

THE TROPHY. I've been searching for a big bluefish for my wall for sometime. I have certain criteria that must be met before that blue gains immortality. It has to be a surf-caught fish and it must weigh over fifteen pounds, and must be caught in the waters of the state where I live. In the past few years, a couple of my friends who have set similar criteria have achieved their goal. Last year, I slid a fish up onto the beach, and I began jumping happily. I thought that I had my wall-fish; but on a certified scale, it weighed fourteen pounds, fourteen ounces. So I took it off the scale and released it. Keep swimming baby!

TIME IS RUNNING OUT. I have the feeling that if I'm going to take such a fish, that it will have to be soon. I don't think that we'll have the pleasure of the company of "alligators" forever. Things may just go back to the way they were before the 1960s.

A FEW LAST THOUGHTS. Many fishermen say that bass are hard to fool, and I guess that I can't disagree too much. But typically, the bluefish is described as an easy mark. That may be true, but in my experience, it only works when there are lots and lots of blues actively slashing into bait. But when the bluefish schools are thin and the individual fish are big, I have found that they are very hard to fool. I've fished for them when the use of a wire leader meant no fish; and the use of monofilament meant a heavy price tag in plugs. In the 1960s when there were more bass available to the beach clan, I considered the blues as pests. They horned in on things and messed up the bass fishing. But now that the bass are a little scarce, I've gained an increased respect for the toothy beasts.

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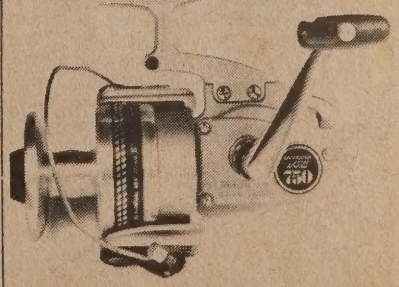

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FRESH WATER

with Angelo Peluso

WORMING FOR BASS

If you ask any number of avid bass anglers to describe their favorite lure, I'm confident that the great majority will refer to the deadly plastic worm. Since its arrival onto the fishing scene, the plastic wonders have managed to induce more than their share of strikes among the wily basses. Plastic worms have also become a favored weapon in the arsenal of many competitive tournament bass fishermen, and rightfully so. Bass simply cannot resist the tantalizing, bottom-bouncing action of the worm. A properly rigged worm can be fished almost totally weedless, among the obstructions where big bass lurk. Seductive movements are built-in qualities of plastic worm construction. It is the combination of movement and location fished that cause the plastic worm to be so effective.

If we take a look at the popular trend in worm fishing, we will see one technique standing out as the primary method used when fishing plastic worms. This particular method gained its popularity due to its consistent success and versatility. It is practiced almost exclusively by many worm fishermen. I refer to the traditional bottom-bouncing technique. When using this tactic, the fisherman must first rig the bait in the conventional "Texas rig" fashion. With this rig, either a straight or off-set worm hook is imbedded, by its point, into the head of the plastic worm. A six inch worm should be fitted with either a 1/0, 2/0, or 3/0 hook, while 4/0 and 5/0 will suffice for a worm of seven and eight inches. Once in the worm, the hook is drawn down approximately ½ inch, with the point and shaft pulled through the worm at the ½ inch mark, reversed and re-imbedded into the body. Bear in mind that the worm should, at all times, be kept STRAIGHT. It might be helpful for you to measure off the location on the body of the worm that will offer a straight rigging and place the hook back into that exact spot. Though this might sound a bit confusing, it is really rather simple (see following diagram.) Another feature of the Texas rig is the use of a slip sinker. This type of lead weight allows the worm to be fished in a manner that allows it to reach deep water locations quickly. The slip sinker is threaded onto the line prior to tying on the worm hook. As a freely moving weight it becomes an integral part of the worm when inhaled by a bass; the combination of hook, worm and sinker is taken in by the fish. When fishing Long Island waters I use slip weights of 1/8 to 1/4 ounce. When tying the rig to your line it would be advisable to utilize either an improved clinch knot or a Palomar knot.

With the worm rigged in this fashion, the angler casts to either visible or sub-surface structure and allows the bait to descend to the bottom. Often, a bass will hit the worm as it falls toward the bottom. It is at this time that the angler should be alert to any line movement which might indicate a striking bass. But, most often the strike will come following a few deliberate and slow jigging motions. A very critical point is the first lift of the rod. If a bass sees the bait fall but doesn't strike, the first movement will usually induce a response. If the worm is jerked with too quick a motion, it is very possible and extremely likely that the bass will bite and reject the bait before there is an opportunity to set the hook.

When spot casting in shallow areas it is beneficial to vary the method of retrieve. After a cast is made, the worm should be allowed to settle to the bottom and then "bounced" or slowly jigged back. As an alternate method, the worm can be kept near the surface by keeping the rod tip high. When utilizing this approach I like to vibrate the rod top thereby imparting a wiggling action to the worm. The wiggle retrieve has been productive for me when casting into and around pads and weeds. Bass will also occasionally attack a wiggled worm within a few feet of the boat, so it pays to be alert. Retrieves should be intermittently altered by changing the speed of the retrieve since a bass' preferences can constantly change from one day to the next and during the course of the same day.

Most of the difficulty associated with plastic worm fishing is related to hook setting. This phase of worming can be a very tricky affair, especially to the novice. As a matter of practicality, it becomes necessary to watch the line. The first indicator of a hit is most often a twitching movement of the line; a quick and erratic change of direction. This situation is known, in bass parlance, as the Pick-Up. If the fisherman responds too soon, the worm will land back in his lap. A late response and the fish will drop the bait as if it were a hot potato. Though I miss my share of hits, I have found that one important key to a successful day of worming is to make careful note of how the bass take and mouth the worm. I have always maintained that a miss can teach you as much, if not more, than a score.

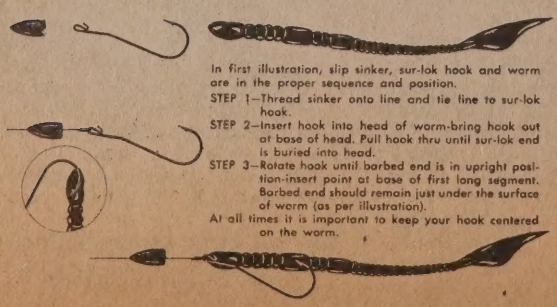
If you find that the bass are hitting rather short, it might be necessary to give an additional bit of line to allow the fish to take in more of the worm, thus having it better positioned for the strike. On some occasions a quick hit will be the key to success, while on others a few seconds lapse might be needed. In certain situations I choose to fish a plastic worm weightless. Bass have a tendency to hit a freely floating worm as if it were a plug. In these instances your best bet would be to strike back quickly. The experiences of many bass fishermen have shown that your success ratio for hooked fish will depend a great deal on your ability to read a strike. Bass react in different ways, and the angler will have to adjust accordingly.

As mentioned in the opening paragraph of this article, the plastic worm has to be considered as the most consistent bass catching lure on today's market. It is a lethal bait whose effectiveness is directly related to its versatility. A plastic worm can be fished in a number of ways and under different sets of conditions. Due to the current variety of sizes, shapes and colors, the worm can also be adapted to complement other bass baits; consider the jig and eel combination or the effect of adding a worm tail to a spinnerbait. Color has been a key factor in the efficiency, effectiveness and adaptability of the plastic baits. The spectrum-ranging assortment of available colors can easily match the light conditions found in practically all of the bass producing depths. Light penetration is crucial in bass fishing, and the angler's ability to match the right color to the available light is often the difference between success and failure. Sometimes it is but a subtle change in shade that pushes a fish to strike. This consideration of color is what makes it essential to have a working assortment of worm colors available. Examine a true wormin' man's tackle box and I am certain that you will find a wide variety of colors. Some newcomers may question the effectiveness of unnatural looking worms, but each has a time and a place. I currently like to stock an assortment of colors which include: black, purple, red and blue. Black is probably the most universally accepted and is, therefore, many bass fishermen's favorite. Purple runs a very close second. A black worm tends to blend in naturally in dark or stained water. The generally accepted rule is to use dark baits on dark days and in dark water, while using light colors on bright days and in clear water. But, Mr. Bass is too unpredictable a critter for the rule to be absolute—so experiment. It would also be worth your while to keep a supply of multi-colored worms in stock. These can produce on days when single colors come up empty. The offering of contrasting colors in one bait can turn on bass when all else fails.

One variation to worm fishing that will be helpful to the Long Island angler fishing shallow water lakes and ponds is

(Continued on page 13.)

How to assemble the Lindy Tail



In first illustration, slip sinker, sur-lok hook and worm are in the proper sequence and position.

STEP 1—Thread sinker onto line and tie line to sur-lok hook.

STEP 2—Insert hook into head of worm-bring hook out at base of head. Pull hook thru until sur-lok end is buried into head.

STEP 3—Rotate hook until barbed end is in upright position-insert point at base of first long segment. Barbed end should remain just under the surface of worm (as per illustration).

At all times it is important to keep your hook centered on the worm.

The first perceptible light of the late summer dawn revealed the clusters of small craft moored on the mirror-like surface of the harbor. As the visibility increased with the approaching sunrise, intermittent splashes could be perceived throughout the inner harbor area—somewhat like giant raindrops from a passing shower seen in slow-motion. The concentric rings from this disturbance quickly dashed themselves into oblivion against the myriad boats resting at ease tethered to their buoys.

"The bunker are here anyway," mused the lone fisherman to himself as he noiselessly edged along the shore seeking a clearing among the boats.

Surf Side

with John Fritz

Dead End to Slaughter

Suddenly off to his left, the water erupted in a loud whoosh as a dozen bunker skittered along the surface frantically trying to escape the large dark form pursuing them.

In an instant there was an accompanying whoosh from the beach as a missile flew from the shore to crash into the water a short distance beyond the recent disturbance. As the object hit the surface, it came to life, moving swiftly towards the shore accompanied by an audible plop and splashing of its own.

The silver cylinder traveled scarcely ten feet before it was lost in a violent eruption of water, as a sleek dark form launched itself from the depths of the murky water to seize the bait in its powerful jaws. The terror of the merciless hunter can be well imagined when he realizes that, instead of a mouthful of tasty flesh, it finds hard plastic and sharp steel. Panic sets in as the fish finds itself being forcefully pulled towards the shore. Strong thrusts for freedom are to no avail and in short order, the once-terrible predator finds himself impaled and lifted ruthlessly into the fresh light of a new day.

Scenes such as this were a common occurrence in the North Shore harbors over the past few years. Monster bluefish herd the bunker schools into the inner harbor areas where they feed on their trapped prey, usually with the first light of dawn. Any fisherman witnessing the terrible onslaught of a school of savage bluefish feeding on a pod of frightened bunker, cannot help but feel the adrenalin coursing through his veins.

Instances similar to this are commonplace wherever the mighty bluefish roam. The difference being that a shorebound angler, without the mobility of the boatmen, cannot often reach feeding blues which will stay put for a prolonged period of time. The length of surface activity often depends on the amount of boat traffic in the vicinity and as every surfcaster knows, there are some boatmen who have complete ignorance of even the basic rules of courtesy, or angling know-how.

Aside from the length of their feeding spree, good fishing can be repeated for many days in succession. Prime time coincides with the first light of dawn. If upon your arrival at their last feeding area, you discover that the bunker are gone, don't go home before you check out other nearby harbor areas. If you can locate the bunker schools, the bluefish are rarely very far distant.

The combination of bunker and monster blues are typical in all the harbors on the Sound side of Long Island from Little Neck Bay east to Mt. Sinai. A few years ago, they were even found in Flushing Bay and under the shadow of the Triborough Bridge in Astoria. I will choose just one of these harbors, but techniques which work in this particular location will serve in the other harbors as well.

Mt. Sinai Harbor is located a few miles east of Port Jefferson. This scenic bay can be reached by taking Route 25A to Pipe Stove Hollow Road and then traveling north. As you near this road's northern terminus, you will notice the marsh and bay on your left-hand side. Before driving all the way to the end and making a right turn, carefully check the waters near you for signs of activity. If splashing bunker are not present, go west through the parking lot, past the yacht club, until you find yourself at the inlet. Always look carefully around the harbor for any telltale sign of fish. If no sign of surface activity is discovered, backtrack along the road to the main parking field carefully scrutinizing the waters of the Sound.

Nothing?

There is still one possibility. Drive to a vantage point overlooking the harbor—the yacht club is a good bet—that affords good visibility of the cove lying on the opposite shore towards the southwest. On some occasions, the bunker and therefore, the blues have showed here.

If this happens to be the case, drive back along the road you came in on, which is Harbor Beach Road. Make six turns in all, keeping the bay on your right side. The route is as follows: Harbor Beach Road onto Pipe Stove Hollow Road; turn right on North Country Road; right on Shore Road, and right on Bay View Avenue, which brings you to Crystal Brook Hollow Road.

If you do not find surface feeding fish, you can try fishing blind, say at the inlet which offers the most possibilities. A prime spot would be at the constricting point where the inlet turns east opening into the harbor itself. Here on this sandy point of beach directly south of the east jetty, deep water and fast currents are within an easy cast of the shore. From here also, the harbor as far as the marina and the inlet, can be watched for any sign that could mean fish are present.

On those lucky days when you find the blues feeding actively, popping plugs or tin cast into the midst of the action often results in weary muscles, battered equipment and full stringers. When fishing the inner harbor waters, heavy tackle should be employed to keep fish away from buoys and docks.

Wire leaders are a must when blues are in a feeding frenzy and many times lines are cut by just passing through these tightly packed schools. Any hardware should be black or at least with a dull finish so as not to attract a strike from these sharp-toothed bluedevils.

Although not as rewarding, but oft times necessary, bait can be used to entice these blues to the hook. If the bunker are present, the bait will not have to be brought with you. A weighted treble cast into the school and retrieved swiftly with powerful horizontal jerks of your rod, will quickly supply your needs. Once obtained, they can be fished either live or as cut bait on the bottom. Fresh bunker has a definite advantage over the previously frozen article.

If the bunker is to be fished live, simply add a 7/0 treble hook with wire leader to the back of the bait, two-thirds of the way to the tail, being careful not to hit the spine. Cast as best as you are able, as close to the activity as possible. Now try to relax and wait for your crippled, bleeding bunker to be spotted by one of those blood-crazed blues.

Bunker chunks can be used without any weight and allowed to sink gently to the bottom or floated along with the current. On some occasions, fresh-cut bunker will work where the live surface swimming bunker is completely ignored. If you believe that blues are present and no hits are forthcoming on the top, experiment—often they will lie close to the bottom, not actively feeding, but allowing themselves to be tempted by any tidbits drifting by.

Occasionally schools of tinker mackerel are encountered in the late summer months in these harbors. During such times, these small mackerel can be substituted for the bunker with results which are just as rewarding. They are more difficult to snag in the manner in which bunker are taken. A light one-handed spinning rod casting small Hopkins or Kastmaster tins would provide more sport and a plentiful supply of bait.

One item which cannot be compromised is the use of a wire leader. A four-inch piece of single strand stainless steel wire attached to the eye of your hook will foil any attempts by the blue to bite his way to freedom.

One way in which to spend a pleasant summer night is to fish the beach on the Sound side: say from the jetty to a point a few hundred yards east, using bunker chunks on a fish finder rig. The preferred tide for this activity is the outgoing when the harbor empties its abundance to the predators waiting in ambush among the submerged bars and rocks en route. The flow of the ebb tide in this part of the Sound is from west to east; therefore, this side of the inlet is favorable in this instance.

When the bunker manage to escape their confines in the bay, the action experienced on the inside can repeat itself here in the open waters of the Sound. Conditions such as this arose during a week's period in August '74. Since these waters are

(*Continued on page 13.*)

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

BLUECLAW CRABS

Catching blue claw crabs has often been called everybody's favorite pastime—and it might very well be. Often, local citizens who do little or no fishing during the year, happily look forward each summer to a bit of crabbing.

The appeal is great. Certainly little cold cash is involved. In fact, when quickly constructed killie rings are used, total cash outlay can be nil: scrap fish heads for bait can be obtained free of charge at most any local fish store.

Should the fisherman care to invest a few bucks, he can rent a skiff, hang one or more traps overboard, and spend most all his time fishing. Any crabs he catches—and he will—are considered a bonus.

When considering all this, plus their gourmet eating qualities, is it any wonder crabbing is a popular pastime?

Of all the various crabbing methods, using a killie ring is closest to actual fishing. The tugging of crabs at the bait is easily telegraphed up the line, much like the bite of a husky fish. It has one drawback, though: the fisherman really has no opportunity to enjoy rod and reel fishing. The prime requisite when killie-ring crabbing is to pay strict attention to what's going on. If this is not done, the crabs soon rip apart the free meal and carry it away.

As noted, several crabbing methods are used and all produce when handled properly. Let's look at the crab trap first.

These come in several designs; the older square type, and the more modern pyramid shape being most popular. I don't think it matters which one is used—they both do their job well. My preference leans to the square type for no particular reason, except that I've been using these since boyhood days.

Hardware stores and tackle shops all carry traps and their cost is trifling. Instructions for assembly are included and take but minutes to complete. I find, though, that it is a good idea to wire down an eight-ounce sinker or some type of weight. This assures the trap landing right-side up. It is annoying to pull a trap to the surface and find the main line snarled around one of the doors, and any crabs that would have been trapped, conspicuous by their absence.

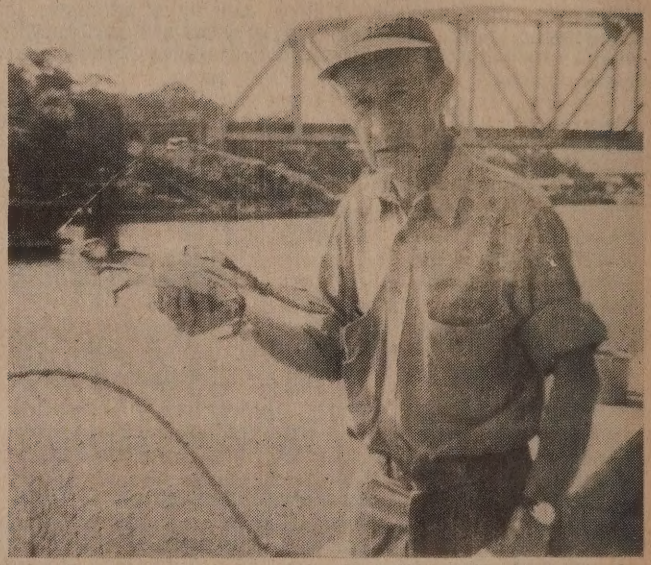
This also applies when crabbing from shore. A trap is best used where deep water (at least ten feet) is available. The trap is then easily lowered to the bottom. When the trap is cast from shore, the chances of it landing right-side up are slim, indeed. Needless to say, crabs can't enter a trap lying upside down or on its side.

Your main line should be strong and preferably impervious to saltwater action. Don't use old, discarded wash line. You may get by with it for a trip or two, but sooner or later, it will break and the loss of the trap is quite likely. You'd be surprised at how many lost traps dot the muddy bottoms of local bays. The best line to use is nylon Venetian Blind cord, available in any hardware store.

Bait the trap with either fish heads or killies; whole fish such as sea robins, mackerel and mossbunker are good. Don't bother with frozen spearing and sand eels.

It isn't that these won't work—they will, but when thawed, this bait tends to become soft, and it is soon picked apart. The uneaten bits and pieces will sweep along with the current and the crabs go into high gear and merrily give full chase, leaving none for the trap. When using whole fish, score a few times to release oils and odors to the immediate vicinity. This is what brings crabs on the run.

Crabs have powerful claws; so be sure to keep fingers in the clear when handling. It is these powerful claws that easily rip and tear a bait to pieces in minutes; therefore, it is important that all bait be wired securely to the bottom of the trap. Cord or twine will avail you naught, as this soon becomes frayed from the sharp claws. When using killies, pass the wire through each one much like one would string beads for a necklace.



Mid-August offers excellent crabbing.

It's impossible to tell when crabs have entered the trap, and therein lies its one drawback. The only way is to check by periodically pulling it to the surface for a quick look-see. With experience, you will be able to feel the crab, or crabs, scurrying about the wire mesh on the way up. When lowering for another try, always allow slack when the trap is felt to hit bottom. This lets the doors open and lie flat out.

As noted before, using a killie ring is closest to actual fishing. When the line is held between the fingers, the crabs are easily felt tugging at the bait. The ring is then drawn slowly and carefully to the waiting net. This gathering of the line should be done with a smooth, uninterrupted motion. If the movements are jerky, the crab is apt to let go. When properly done, the crab will be so intent on the bait, it won't notice the net's approach.

And this brings us to an important part. For successful crabbing with killie rings, it's best if two fishermen try their luck together. One is then readily available with the net when it's needed. It's awkward for a lone fisherman to net a crab with one hand on the line and the other on the net. Don't overlook the fact that a net is just as much a requirement when using a killie ring as the bait itself—it is practically impossible to safely land a crab without it.

It will take a few misses and assorted cuss words before learning how to properly approach the hanging crab. Keep in mind that stealth is necessary—make no quick movements in the direction of the crab!

It's best to ready the net a foot or two below the surface and lead the crab into it. Then a quick, upward scoop is all that's needed. Even with all these precautions, some crabs will let go seconds before the net is brought into play. Don't fret about it: it's par for the course, and happens to every fisherman.

Making a killie ring is simplicity itself. Use a ten or twelve-inch length of fairly stiff wire, yet pliable enough to easily form a hook on each end by hand. Center a two or three ounce sinker and secure by twisting a loop in the wire. Bait is put on from either end and when full, the ends are looped and hooked together. Drop line cord is best to use, but anything of similar nature will do. Don't use monofilament, however. It will tangle and snarl, giving you no end of trouble.

Often, especially on a rising tide, crabs will be noted clinging to spilings, bulkheads, and like obstructions. This is the time to bring a long-handled net into play and go "scalping." When crabs are plentiful, this method produces not only crabs, but a good deal of frustration.

This is because scalping isn't as easy as it looks. Until

some experience is gained, the crab will take advantage of its speed and keen eyesight and outwit you every time. One second the crab seems to be yours, and in the next, it will have disappeared.

Where did it go? I don't know, but if you immediately leave the area and return later, the chances are good that it will be back in the same spot, giving you a second shot. Maybe this time, you'll be lucky.

As good as scalping from shore can be, I believe better results are obtained when two fishermen use a skiff and slowly pole or row along, carefully checking each spiling and bulkhead surface. One fisherman mans the boat, the other does the scalping. After a pre-determined time, or a set amount of crabs later, places are exchanged and the other fisherman gets his turn. This keeps everybody happy, and a good time is had by all.

On sunny, windless days, crabs are often seen swimming just inches below the surface. Quite often, shore fishermen using long-handled nets gather dozens of crabs with little effort. If you don't mind a bit of jostling as one fisherman tries to out-reach another, it can be lots of fun. If your temper is short-fused, better try one of the other crabbing methods.

Actually, this type of crabbing is better during the dark hours when bay waters are quiet and the night warm. There's less competition, too. Strong, chilly winds keep the crabs on bottom, so be sure conditions are right before trying this method.

Naturally, you'll need some sort of light for this nocturnal activity, not only to attract crabs, but to see what you're doing. A powerful flashlight will work, but best results are obtained when using one of the Coleman-type lamps. This is put on the bow or stern of an anchored boat, or at the feet of the shore fisherman. The crabs are then netted as they investigate and swim into the bright light.

When using a flashlight, the beam is held continuously before the crab as it is slowly lead to the reach of the net. The advantage of this is that larger crabs can be selected and the smaller ones allowed to go on their way unmolested.

Some fishermen rig a sealed beam headlight and 12 volt car battery for a power source. This works extremely well when one fisherman does the netting and another handles the light. Any of the above methods will get you crabs. Just remember, a warm, windless night is essential. It will pay to wait for these conditions.

You'll find it also pays to have a wide-mouth container along in which to release and hold your captured crabs. A bushel basket is ideal for this. You won't fill it up (at least I hope not), but crabs have the unique ability to sense a narrow-mouthed container and you'll find a good many of them avoiding it and landing on the bottom of the boat or on shore where recapture is often difficult.

Blue claws have no fear. They'll think nothing of taking on a big guy like you—so watch your fingers. Those wicked claws are lightning-swift and they seldom miss, if given half a chance. Once they latch on to a foreign object (and your fingers can be considered to fall into this category), they won't let go unless placed back in the water. Better safe than sorry.

To pick up an escaped crab, hold down with your foot or stout stick and reach behind and grasp one of the rear paddles firmly. Don't worry if the crab attempts to reach under its abdomen and nail you. It will try, but if your grip is sure and at the edge of the shell, it can't reach you. The first time you handle a crab this way, is the worst. After you gain confidence, the rest come easy.

Crabbing is best from mid-August, throughout September into early October. Occasionally, depending on weather conditions, crabbing is often excellent until the end of October. The first signs of fall's breath send them into the mud bottom, not to reappear until the following summer.

Each locality has just so many crabs—they don't migrate or wander far. Deplete the supply and it means poor crabbing for a long time. Therefore, when you capture a crab with an orange mass on its abdomen, return it immediately—no matter how big it is! These "sponges" contain as many as two million eggs.

For future fun and good eating, we need as many crabs as possible. Do your share to help.

Conserve the blue claw crab!

Freshwater: Worming Bass

(*Continued from page 10.*)

that of fishing the worm totally weightless. To fish in this manner rig the worm by threading a weedless hook through the head of the worm and out the under portion of the body. The hook point is exposed approximately ¾" to 1 inch down from the head. With this set-up the worm is able to slither, unhindered, over and around the pads and weeds. The weightlessness enables the fisherman to work the lure as a vibrating and pulsating "living" creature. Also, the absence of any weight will allow the worm to naturally flutter to the bottom.

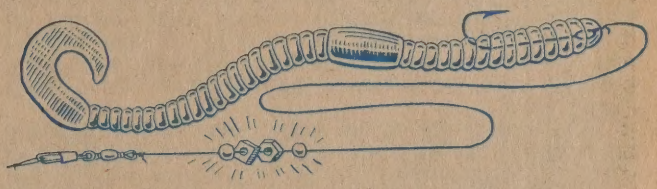
Plastic worms have a great deal of potential. Give them a try—you'll catch bass.

Surf Side: SLAUGHTER

(*Continued from page 11.*)

more spacious and, for the most part, free of obstructions, more time can be taken to play the fish, thus affording the angler much more enjoyment.

When the summer doldrums arrive during the heat of the late summer months, when the bass fishing is almost nonexistent, keep your eyes and ears tuned to these placid harbor waters on the North Shore. The combination of bunker and bluefish often result in fast paced action reminiscent of the fall runs of yester-year.



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Inshore Fishing

with Scott J. Simons

Montauk Blues

This definitely looks like the "year of the bluefish" for Long Island's South Shore. Compared to last year's dismal run of choppers, when many boats stopped sailing entirely for blues due to the lack of fish, the boats sailing out of Sheepshead Bay, Freeport and Captree have been making some excellent catches. The bluefishing at Montauk last year was good; however, the season started very late and didn't really "peak" until well into September. But this year the blues have arrived on time and in full force, and the boats at the Point are loading up on virtually all the blues they want—and the fishing hasn't even peaked yet! Open boats fishing the middle and western end of the Island usually catch their blues in a chum slick of ground-up bunker, using either chunk baits or banana tube lures. Charterboats will also chum on occasion, but usually will get the bulk of their catch trolling with wire line—which is probably the most effective way of catching bluefish on a consistent basis. The Montauk charterboats will also usually troll for their bluefish, which allows them to put the most blues into the box in the shortest period of time—this being essential on a half-day charter where the fishing time is limited. But there are two other methods of taking bluefish that are peculiar to Montauk—fishing whole herring (or bunker) on a tandem-hook drail arrangement and diamond jigging. This week we'll discuss diamond jigging for bluefish, and next week, we will cover the method of fishing whole herring baits.

The photographs on the facing pages were taken at the two most consistently productive areas for taking bluefish at Montauk: the Submarine Buoy and the Cartwright Grounds. The Submarine Buoy has been producing excellent catches of bluefish for almost a month now, and the Cartwright Grounds should be coming alive with choppers any day now. Both areas can be expected to produce well into the month of November, based on past performances. For example, two years ago, The Long Island Fisherman made a television news segment for NBC News. Leaving Montauk's Star Island Yacht Club with owner Henry Colombi on Bert Rockfield's private boat "Serenity II," we couldn't find any striped bass for the camera crew; so we ended up at the Submarine Buoy bailing bluefish while the cameras ground away—all this in the middle of November! The blues stay in the Sub Buoy area as long as the water temperature is accommodating. The action at Cartwright usually ends a little sooner—not as a result of a lack of blues, but due to the invading hordes of spiny dogfish that move into the area in the fall, providing too much competition for your bait.

The first thing that you'll need for this fishing, obviously, is a good supply of diamond jigs. You can use either Ava jigs or Bridgeport, in the six or eight ounce size. (I much prefer the Ava diamond jigs for bass because they have more action, but find the Bridgeport jigs produce as well as the Ava for bluefish.) Whichever jig you choose, make certain to purchase the *squidding* version, which has a single free-swinging hook, rather than the standard treble-hook. This single hook has two advantages over the treble: it gives the jig more action when it is rapidly retrieved, and the free-swinging hook doesn't allow the blue to use the jig as a lever to pry the hook out of his mouth as easily as the shorter treble hook does. If you don't believe me, use the treble hook version and keep count of how many bluefish you drop—more than you land, I'll betcha!

Unless you have nothing better to do with your money than buy diamond jigs, the use of a heavy leader is a necessity to keep down the number of jigs broken off by blues. I don't recommend, however, the use of a wire leader for two reasons: the bluefish can see it too easily, and they most definitely can be very line shy at times. A wire leader also virtually eliminates that bonus striped bass you can expect to take occasionally. Personally, I use a four-foot-long, forty-pound test monofilament leader. The jig is attached to it with an improved clinch knot, and the other end of the leader has a number 5 *black* barrel swivel. Use *only* black barrel swivels, not the pretty silver or gold ones—the bluefish will also find them pretty, and try to eat them on you. If you really want to have a ball, try catching two bluefish at a clip. Just tie a dropper-loop with about a two-inch diameter into the leader about two-and-a-half or three feet above the jig and attach a small tube off an umbrella rig.

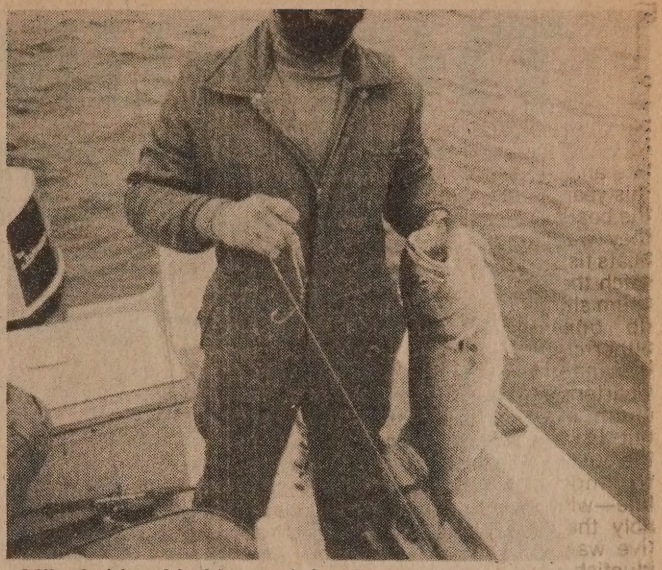
For tackle, you want to go on the heavy side, particularly if you are going after the gorillas at Cartwright. I recommend either the Penn 112H (3/0) or the Penn 113H (4/0) special Senator, both of which have an extremely high-speed retrieve ratio. I also highly recommend Garcia GK-64 Kingfisher, which has a close tolerance and stainless steel spool. Lacking these choices, make sure that the reel you do decide to use has a metal spool—it doesn't take the battle of too many mid-teen bluefish to send a plastic spool exploding. For the main line, use thirty-pound test monofilament as a minimum; forty-pound preferred, fifty-pound maximum. Ideally, use a six-and-a-half to seven foot rod with a fast taper and plenty of backbone.

Squidding itself is extremely simple. Just let the jig down to the bottom, then retrieve it to the surface *rapidly* by reeling in as fast as you can. Don't worry about the jig moving too fast. Bluefish Rule #1: you *can't* retrieve too fast! If a bluefish wants to catch your jig, he will. Bluefish Rule #2: if you aren't catching any blues, don't pay any attention to Bluefish Rule #1—vary your retrieve! Sometimes the blues can get finicky as they go off their "feed" and you have to try something different to entice them to hit the jig. Try varying the speed intermittently: hit the bottom and make five fast turns, then five slow, then four-and-a-half fast, five-and-three-quarters slow, etc. Occasionally, try pausing for two or three seconds. Try working just the bottom third of water—hit the bottom, ten or fifteen fast turns, pause, back to the bottom, repeat the process.

I've also found that sometimes a colored diamond jig is the only ticket to success when the bluefish decide to be finicky. Paint a few of your jigs white, red, or yellow, with a good enamel. I save the jigs that have been chipped or had plating stripped off by bluefish for this purpose. The surface of the jig should be roughed up somewhat so that the paint has a surface it can adhere to well. Just dip the jigs in the paint, then hang them up by the hook to dry. It's a good idea to use several coats. I've also been experimenting with sleeving the jigs with colored, heat-shrinkable tubing, which seems to have great potential. More on this remarkable tubing in a future article. At the Sub Buoy, which is east of the Montauk Lighthouse about two-thirds of the distance to Block Island, the schools of bluefish can usually be found by following the birds. As a rule of thumb, the bird action will usually follow this pattern: Terns Only—not necessarily working over blues. Terns are capable of catching bait without the aid of predators chasing them. Terns & Gulls—good chance they are working over blues. Gulls Only—almost always working over bluefish or other predator. Reason? Most seagulls couldn't catch a baitfish if their lives depended on it—which it would, if the gulls didn't have the predators to help them out.

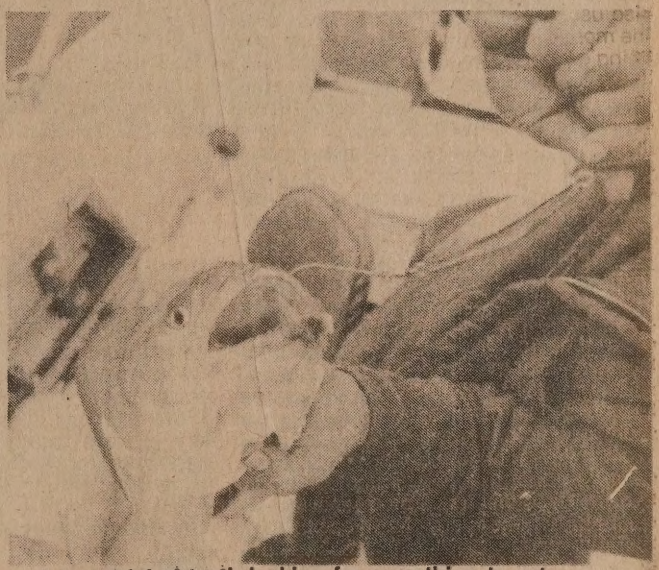
The schools of bluefish can also be found at the Sub Buoy by cruising around with a graph recorder. At the Cartwright Grounds, which is south of the Point, this will be the only way to locate the fish, because there won't be any birds around to tip you off. Because you are fishing in depths in excess of 80 and 100 feet and the blues will rarely rise more than halfway up off the bottom, few baitfish are driven to the surface, so the birds don't bother hanging around. When you mark a school of fish on the recorder, just stop the boat and free-spool your jig to the bottom. More than likely, a big chopper will hit it before you've reached bottom. When this happens, you will usually feel a slight "bump" to the jig. Or sometimes you will be letting your line out and it will suddenly stop in its tracks like the jig has touched the bottom—only it stopped at 30 feet, instead of 80 or more. So when you are free-spooling, always let the line pass through your fingertips so that you will be able to detect a bluefish picking up the jig on the way down. As soon as you feel a nudge as described, put the reel on lock and set the hook—HARD! Hit the fish three or four times as hard as you can. The theory is, if you are going to lose the fish, lose him right away before you expend too much energy needlessly. Why fight a fish for ten minutes only to lose him on the surface? This is known as the "Stu Miller method" for not catching fish.

Frank and "Mike the G" both have big blues on at Cartwright.



Mike holds a big blue and the diamond jig it was taken on.

rank puts the gaff to a 14 lb. Cartwright blue that took an Ava 7 diamond jig last September.



A mouthful of teeth looking for something to eat.

Big blues can be bloody and ornery and require careful de-hooking, lest you get bitten.

Cartwright blues overflow the second fish box.

THE HUMPBACKS OF MONTAUK

by Ron Onorato

Part One—Seabass

To those of us who fished out of Montauk last year, the lack of a summer resident population of striped bass was missed. However, the Bible says, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away," and we were surely given the best bottom fishing Montauk has seen in recent years, amidst the worst summer of striped bass fishing—so things even out a little bit.

For the many rod and reel commercial fishermen who spent a great deal of time on the water, it was the sea bass and porgy that paid their wages, not the customary striper. For whatever reasons, the sea bass returned to Montauk waters in absolutely astounding numbers last year. The fish were big, and there were lots of them, including many of those big humpbacked honeys—in fact, a five-and-three-quarter pound sea bass was taken aboard the "Hombre" while commercial fishing on a southside wreck. The porgies, while not as plentiful as other years, were big—averaging between two and three pounds in many cases. The third member of this group—the fluke—was also present at Montauk waters in unprecedented numbers, although the fish, for the most part, were smaller than the past few seasons and there were plenty of those big humpbacked doormats taken at not so publicized locations. About the only thing that held true for all three of these fish, is that they were found at locations where they never were found before, while their former feeding grounds did not produce as well.

The sea bass have been on the upswing in numbers since 1973. Perhaps it was the restrictions placed on the foreign fishing fleets that prohibited them from fishing certain areas where the fish winter, or perhaps the fish are on the upward part of their natural cycle. For whatever the reason, the fish were there in good numbers, and not just at Montauk. Before the oxygen depletion problem off New Jersey, there were plenty of fish on the local wrecks. The same was true along Long Island's South Shore. The fish were a little smaller than their Eastern brothers, but they were equally as numerous. Even many of the South Shore bays had loads and loads of tiny one-quarter and one-half pound "pin" bass, which is evidence of a strong juvenile stock that hopefully will provide good sea bass fishing for the next few years. Up along the North Shore of Long Island, many blackfishermen were surprised to see sea bass showing up in their catches of blackfish. All indications point to a very strong sea

George Oliver shows 4 lb. humpback sea bass taken on Montauk wreck.

Double headers of sea bass were common at Montauk last year.

bass fishery for the next few years.

The sea bass is a densely schooling fish that prefers moderately warm water temperatures. Usually the first fish show up at Montauk around the end of May and build steadily after that. They will stay the length of the summer, and sometime in October—depending on the weather—will migrate back offshore to their wintering grounds.

The key to good sea bass fishing is finding the right type of bottom on which they feed. They are basically a bottom dwelling fish; although they will often stray three or four feet off the bottom. They have very large mouths for fish of their size and this, of course, helps them in getting a bigger meal. The sea bass is a very voracious feeder and will eat just about anything that it can fit into its mouth. It will eat whole bergalls, whole lobsters and crabs, squid, other tiny fish, clams, snails, and mussels. Although they have large mouths, they have virtually no teeth: therefore, they are swallowers, not chompers. The blackfish is a chomper that crushes crabs, mussels, etc., before swallowing them. The bluefish is a tearer that bites things with its very sharp teeth before eating. Most resembling, and related scientifically to the sea bass, is the striped bass—which also is a swallower, as it lacks teeth in its large mouth. When the sea bass eyes a meal, it gulps it down in one bite usually, which makes them an easy target for the rod and reel man.

The types of bottom that hold the type of forage that sea bass feed on are numerous. At Montauk, there are many natural reefs which rise from an otherwise uniform bottom, and provide natural feeding grounds. Some of these pieces are only a couple of hundred square feet large, and other areas—such as the Frisbee Grounds, encompass a large area covering almost a half mile. In addition to these natural grounds, many of the wrecks are loaded with fish. To the West, about the only natural feeding ground the sea bass has, are the Cholera Banks off Jones Beach. However, there are several artificial reefs, and many wrecks along the South Shore that will produce to the knowing angler.

Let's take a look at the Frisbee Grounds at Montauk, as a case in point. The reef is located about three miles Southwest of the Lighthouse, in about sixty-five feet of water. Along the length of this reef, there are several high pieces which jut a few feet higher than the surrounding bottom. These are the sea bass producers. Some are loaded with bass, while the others will produce just a few fish. No problem finding the hotspots; just look for the party boats that have recently started fishing this area since the spring codfishing has declined. Another good key to the productive pieces of ground are the clusters of lobster pots that dot the area.

Once you've arrived in the area, the best thing to do is scout out the area with your depth recorder and look around until you see a high piece of bottom. The best thing to do here is mark it with some sort of marker buoy. If wind conditions permit, try several drifts around the marker buoy and see what kind of life there is. If it looks like there is a sizable

Even the bergalls run big on the sea bass grounds. George Oliver shows a three-pounder.

body of fish, anchor up in the vicinity of the float and test it out. You wil find that with a little fishing pressure exerted by several other boats fishing the same areas on a daily basis, it may take four or five drops before you find a good body of fish. Once a boat drops in on a good body of fish, and takes most of the fish, it takes several days for the fish to re-establish themselves. This approach is the scientific approach to sea bass fishing: time and time again, I've seen other fishermen drifting about aimlessly and only picking an occasional fish. They fail to pay any attention to the depth recorder, and fail to even look at shore ranges.

Dotting the Southside of Montauk, are several inshore wrecks that teem with sea bass almost all the time, because they are seldom fished on a daily basis. Few boats know of their exact locations, and this helps maintain their secrecy. The biggest sea bass of all seem to come from those wrecks, with smaller fish not being in evidence on many occasions. I guess those four and five pound bass would make a meal out of a half-pound pin bass.

Those rough bottoms with good bottom life then, are the best bottoms to look for the bass. A very rocky bottom doesn't seem to produce too well. At times, the sea bass will mix with the porgies and feed very close to the beach. Last year, the bass were taken in many of the rips, along with the fluke.

Fishing for sea bass once you're in the right location, is just about the easiest type of bottom fishing there is. The sea bass are greedy and take a baited hook very readily. Because of their big mouths, you can get away with a pretty big hook: a 4/0 or 5/0 tinned O'Shaugnessey hook tied with a 15 inch leader of stiff mono is a good bet. Usually the rig consists of the first hook being attached about eight or ten inches above the sinker. You can use a loop, a three-way swivel, or quick rig to attach the hook to your teminal mono line. By the same means, a second hook is then attached a good twelve inches above the lower hook. Don't be afraid to raise that top hook a few feet off the bottom. Some of the bigger sea bass have gone for that higher hook. If you find that the bottom is very rough, and you keep hanging up, do away with the lower hook entirely: this will reduce the number of snags.

For the most part, you'll be fishing with five or six ounces of lead—a little more if you're going to be doing some drifting; so the outfit you use will be a little on the beefy side. A good quality mono line is an absolute must for this type of fishing. I like to use 30 pound Ande line, for the simple reason that this heavy line will allow me to tear free from most snags without losing the hooks and sinker.

As mentioned earlier, 90 percent of the sea bass fishing is done at anchor, but there are times when drifting does pay off. If the wind is dead calm, and there is little tide movement, drifting will work well. If you're fishing a new area, or an area that is pretty big, drifting will also produce.

Just about any of the conventional baits used will take sea bass. When you look at what comes out of the sea bass, you can understand why just about any

continued on page 46.

How To Set Up A Live Bait Well

by Louis Ammirati

Keep live bait alive, fresh and frisky. There have been a lot of ways devised by live bait fishermen to keep their bait alive. I find the best is a round container, as baits tend to swim together in a circle and they become less damaged than in a square or rectangular bait well, where they bounce off the sides or get stuck in corners. How many fish can you keep in your well? There is no set formula to answer that question because of the size and type of bait to be kept alive. You must have the proper flow of water, or proper aeration to get the best results. Only experimentation with your own tank will give you the answers you need for your various baits. Using living bait which can swim under their own power, will liven up your fishing and give you a chance to get the big ones. A fish that is not hungry will often bypass bait or lures, but will not pass up a live bait. There are many good types of live bait to use: menhaden, popularly called mossbunker, or just bunker herring; mackerel, eels, snappers, and minnow, or killie, as it is often called. All of these will produce a larger variety of game fish:

Be sure to use a new hook each day, or carry a small file to keep your hooks needle sharp so you get penetration the moment it touches.

Here are a few ways to hook up your live bait well. The bait well illustrated is a round well measuring 20½'' diameter by 23¼'' high; it is approximately a 25 gallon capacity, and it has two inch threaded openings for inlet and outlet which we have reduced to three-quarter inches. It has a 12 inch anti-splash opening which helps to keep the boat or beach buggy dry. In Illustration A, we have a three-quarter inch hose from the bait well to a bait well pump that has a 400 gallon per hour capacity. This pump is lowered overboard and the power line is hooked to a 12 volt battery. The overflow line is a three-quarter inch hose that is also lowered overboard. The water is pumped in the bottom of the well and is circulated, and out of the top outlet. Illustration B; we use the same well with the bottom inlet hole plugged and a bait well pump ''same as above,'' with a three-quarter inch hose lowered in the bait well and the other end of the hose to the top inlet. This will keep the water circulated. You might have to change a pail of water once in a while to keep it clean and add aerated water. The power line is hooked to a 12 volt battery.

Illustration C: we use the same well, this time plugging both holes and lowering an aerator hose in the well to pump in air to aerate the water. You might have to change a pail of water once in a while to keep it clean. The aerator pump runs on flashlight batteries, size ''D.'' Be sure to keep extras on hand.

The bait well used is the Bunker Caddy by the Caddy Co., 57 Bayonne Ave., Central Islip, N.Y. 11722. There are many pumps available such as Attwood, Rule, Simer, etc. Aerator pump is a Jorgensen. These items can be picked up at your local bait and tackle stores.

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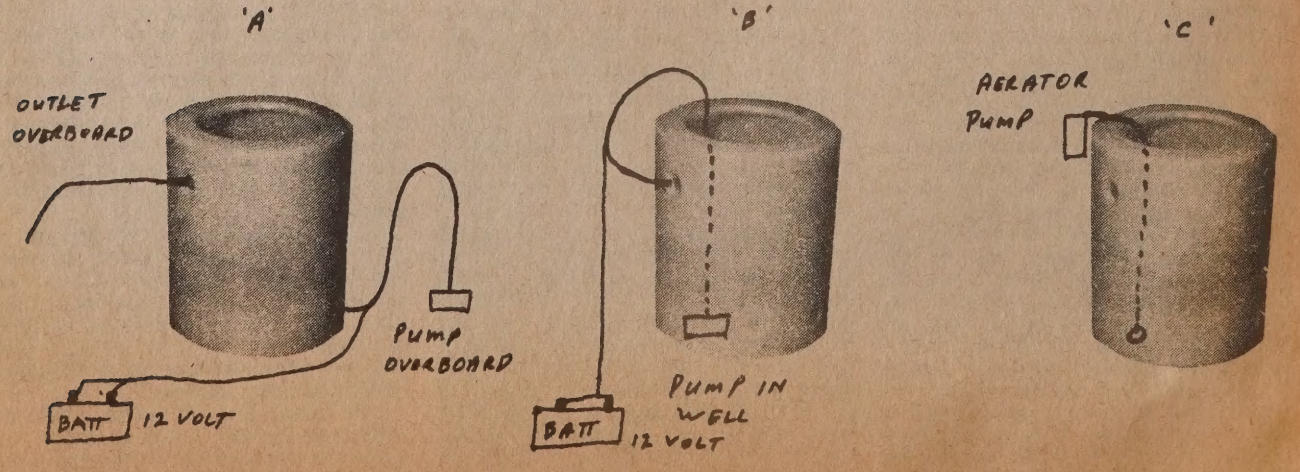

SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Capt. John Keller of the **BRONCO** had Lee Lewis and party on a 2-day canyon trip 70 miles off to Block Canyon where they got 4 blue shark from 100 to 145 lbs., 2 Makos just under 100 lbs. and a 65 lb Yellow fin tuna all on the troll. They saw hundreds of porposes and a 200 pound sunfish.

Charterboat **Free Spirit** called to report that

Shown here is one of the makos caught by Pat Dougherty aboard the "Free Spirit" charterboat. Capt Frank Maccaro said the beast made 6 great jumps before brought to gaff.

on Friday they fished Midway and Sub buoys, taking blues and weaks for a total of 35 fish on diamond jigs with a tube tied three feet above into the leader. Sat. it was out to 40 Fathoms where they ran into a big school of brown shark, nailing two and a mako. Sunday it was out to 40 Fathoms again for a catch of 2 blue shark in the 200 lb. range and a 125 lb. mako. Frank says September will be a great offshore month if the water temperature remains warm as it is now. He asks us to announce that a cancellation over the weekend leaves him with August 27th open, if there are any takers.

Capt. Warren Hader of the charterboat **Devilfish** called to say that on Tuesday Larry Thoma of N.J. took the largest dusky shark to come into Montauk this year. The big fish weighed in at 505 pounds. Warren said that on one charter he had three priests and a monsignor aboard. Fishing the Triangle the men in black loaded up the barrels with weakfish and bluefish.

Westlake Fishing Lodge reported that the offshore fishing has slowed up a little. Capt. Art Munday's charterboat **Darius II** took mako sharks on three trips during the week, and also duskys of 325 and 258 pounds in addition to several brown and blue sharks. Capt. Whitey Bateman's charterboat **Four Queens** took a mako shark of 155 pounds last week and has been loading up on bluefish on his inshore trips. The charterboat **Barracuda** has also been making some excellent inshore and offshore charters.

Capt. Freddy Bird of the **Flying Cloud** reported that the porgy fishing has been excellent around the lighthouse area, and both the **Flying Cloud** and Capt. Dusky Doerzbacher's **Little Bear** have been loading up on them each day.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charterboat **Adios** reported dynamite fishing all week. Inshore fishing has been fantastic in the Midway area

Only one bass amongst 400 lbs. of weakfish and blues. Henry, Joe and Jimmy took these fish on Ava jigs aboard Capt. John DeMaio's charterboat "Vivienne."

where the boat has been loading up the fish box on weakfish and bluefish on diamond jigs. On Saturday Larry Baltzer of Babylon was on board for an offshore trip and took a

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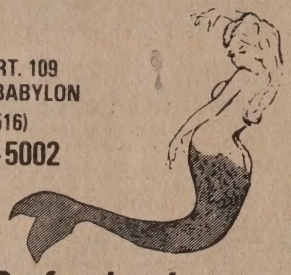

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mako shark of 262 pounds that only took him one hour to bring to gaff. Capt. Phil said that this is the 11th mako shark for the **Adios** this year.

Capt. Frank of the charterboat **Hurry Up** reported that bass fishing was good all week trolling big plugs at night. Not much in quantity, but all big fish.

Capt. Ron Grandinetti of the **Julie III** said that on his Sat. charter led by Gene F. Lee, 250 pounds of sea bass up to 3½ pounds and 100 pounds of porgies were taken for the day. Sunday's party headed by Ray Levine caught 4 weakfish, 13 blues and 300 pounds of porgies up to 3½ pounds at Great Eastern and around the Midway buoy.

Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** said that he is fishing back at the Point and the action is excellent. On Sat. the amazing Brooklyn duo of Phil Westbrook hooked 111 porgies and Erv Garner hooked 110 porgies. Sunday's fishing was no let down either. Capt. Bud says that the fall run of porgies is now starting to take shape.

Capt. Larry Rodriguez said that although the shark fishing has been spotty lately, he managed to raise a blue shark of 170 pounds for Gene Nachamkin of Manhattan. Gene got four good runs out of the fish before it was brought to gaff. Capt. Larry says that he still has a few dates in August available for charter on his boat the **Tiderunner.**

On Sunday morning, the LIF boat ran into Rudy Dechert's private boat in Lake Montauk. Rudy had a dusky shark of 138 pounds lashed to the side of his boat, which is not really an unusual catch in itself. The unusual part of it all was that the shark was taken on an Ava-47 diamond jig at the Submarine Buoy while fishing for blues and weaks. Rudy was using a Penn Jigmaster reel loaded with 50 lb. test Ande line without a leader. He said that the mono was so frayed at the end of the battle that it just broke in his fingers. Larry said that he was fishing in 115 feet of water south of the Submarine Buoy when the shark pounced on his jig.

Gene Kelly of the charterboat **Sea Doll** called to say that on Friday he fished in 35 fathoms of water 160 degrees from the Point and took two mako sharks of 70 and 120 pounds. A third mako shark was dropped, and Gene said that a white shark estimated weight of 1500 pounds made a pass under the boat. On Saturday a white marlin was lost at the boat when the hook pulled out. The white marlin had made 9 jumps after taking a rigged eel that was being trolled.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that the inshore fishing has been excellent for weaks, blues and the sharpies are taking some nice bass. There aren't as many sharks being taken offshore, but the quality is there. On Thursday, Capt. Fritz Benazzo took two mako sharks of 70 and 90 pounds aboard his boat "The Salty." The 70 lb. mako was taken by his 82 year old mother-in-law, fishing in 240' of water, 170 degrees from the Point. On Monday, the "Bumble Bee" released one blue shark, took a yellowfin tuna of 60 pounds and two makos of 70 and 80 pounds. Dave McMann of the "Marie III" took 20 blues and 14 bass up to 41 pounds on Wednesday. On Thursday the boat had 3 bass in the 30 lb. class in addition to several others. Bluefish are being taken by the trollers at Shagwong, where the blues are knee deep in the morning and afternoon. On Wednesday, Capt. Richard Moroso on the "Sevenevans" took a 218 lb. giant tuna. On Sunday, 3 swordfish were seen offshore by the marinas boats. One was lost on rod and reel, but Dr. Bromberg of the boat "Kahlua" took a swordfish of 300 pounds on rod and reel. Nine year old Justin Zack reeled in a triple header of 10 pound bluefish on Sunday. He was fishing aboard his dad's boat "Delta," at the Submarine Buoy.

George Newman, President of the Allied Outdoor Advertising Co. took a 305 lb. mako shark on Saturday. George was fishing

aboard the "Stor Fisk", out of the Star Island Yacht Club in 200 feet of water, 40 miles offshore. The shark hit a rigged spanish mackerel, and was fought for over an hour. George does quite a bit of offshore fishing both in Florida and up here, and almost broke the World Record for sailfish in 1972 with a 102 pounder. 3 blue sharks in the 180 lb. range were also taken for the day and the head of the mako is being mounted.

Capt. Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** said that the porgy fishing on Saturday and Sunday has been improving and it looks like a new run of fish have arrived in the area around the Lighthouse. High hook on Sat. and Sun. was 70 fish and the average catch per man is between 30 and 40 fish. The fluke fishing on weekdays has been good with doormats up to 10 pounds taken, the average man catching 6 to 10 fluke. Richie said that the boat is now sailing at 7 P.M. each night for the big monster Montauk blues that have arrived in the area.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand of the **Promised Land Fishing Station** reported that it was a good week for good fluke fishing. The catches on Sat. were 6 to 18 per boat with most catches in the teens, and several 6 pounders were weighed in. Best area is still from the Nun No. 2 buoy to the Bell off Hicks Island. The fluke action slowed on Sun. for some reason, but a few fluke are beginning to be taken off Cartwright Island. Porgy fishing has been steady and good with the exception of Sunday. The fish are mixed sizes and the best area has been the east side of Gardiner's Island. Weakfish and bluefish have been very sporadic.

EAST HAMPTON

Bill Cox at the **Three Mile Fishing Station** reported that there are plenty of porgies being taken in the area from Cedar Pt. to Lion Head Rock. A few fluke are being taken by buoy 2 off Napeague Harbor and off Gardiner's Island. Bluefish have come into the bay and are being taken on wire line trolling around buoy 13. They are also being taken on plugs early in the morning before there is too much boat traffic. A few striped bass and weakfish are mixed in.

NOYAC

Helen at **Noyac Marina** called to say that there are loads of snappers all over the waters adjacent to her fishing station and that they are possible surpassed only by the large number of porgies that are also there. An occasional weakfish is brought in also.

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark reports porgy fishing excellent fishing Nassau Point, Cow Neck and east of Robbins Island. A run of small weakfish is steadily improving with greater numbers now of weakfish at the western end of the bay, running from 1 to 2½ pounds. The boat is averaging 40 weakfish per day plus big catches of porgies. Porgy high hook per day is usually about 50 fish.

HAMPTON BAYS

Jimmy at **Corr's Fishing Station** reported that the fluke fishing in Shinnecock Bay was slower this past week due to the poor early morning tides. Most anglers took between 5 and 10 keepers, with the sharpies taking between 20 and 30 fish. The best fishing area remains to be the East Channel by Shinnecock Inlet and the channel in front of the Ponquogue Bridge. Most anglers are using sand eels and squid combo baits or live killies and small snappers. Jimmy said to look

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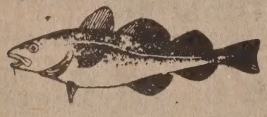
Don Hulsen took this splendid catch of 26 fluke averaging 2 ½ to 5 lbs and the larger two he is holding ran 6 and 6¾ lbs. The fish were taken on live killies in the new cut. Photo courtesy of Cerullo Bros Fishing Station.



for good fluking this week due to the better morning tides.

Frank's Fishing Sta. reports the fluke fishing has been fair and could be a little better. Best action has been in West Channel and around buoy 20 using sand eels and squid for bait. Some boats had as many as 25 to 30 fluke on the weekend but nothing too large. Action has been best on incoming water.

MORICHES BAY

John at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** reported that the fishing is good both inshore and offshore. Ken Montgomery on the "Sun Devil" trolled bluefin tuna of 17 and 19 pounds on red and white feathers in 130 feet of water outside of Moriches Inlet. He then chummed three mako sharks and one hammerhead, all of which were lost at the boat. Tony Rizzo on the "Nino III" took 25 bluefish to 18 pounds. He said that the blues were on top chasing mullet and tinker mackerel. On Sat., Joe O'Brian took 28 fluke that averaged 2 to 3 pounds up to over 5. He fished on the West side of the inlet during incoming water using sand eels and squid for bait. Bob Andrews took 15 keeper fluke up to 3 pounds drifting sand eels and squid around buoy 36 during incoming tide. Bob noted that he fished spearing and squid side by side with the sand eel and squid combo and the fluke wouldn't look at the spearing.

Skidmore's Fishing Station reports that the fluke fishing has been real good with the best action on the west side of the Elbow. The fish have been averaging about 2 pounds with the catches per boat ranging from 20 to 35 a day. Best bait has been spearing and squid. A lot of weaks are being taken in the 25 to 30' hole just east of buoy 42. Hank Schlanger has been taking between 8 and 24 weakfish a trip there using squid for bait. Sea bass in the 1 lb. class are also in the same hole. Fishing for bluefish in the 10 lb. class has been very good around the Moriches Inlet Sea Buoy.

Ben at **Tadsen's Fishing Station** reported that the fluke fishing was very good all week but fell off on Sat. and Sun. Snapper fishing is excellent all over the bay and the blue claw crabs are just starting to show.

Romona of the **Silly Lily Fishing Station** also reported that the fluke fishing was very good during the week but only fair on the weekend. Best action has been at the Elbow and around buoys 38 and 39. Big snappers mixed with medium snappers are being taken by the channel by the Coast Guard Station. The fluke have been taking sand eels and squid best on any moving tide.

MASTIC BEACH

STIRITZ'S FISHING STATION reports fluke from buoy 19/26 on squid, sand eels and spearing. Weaks at buoy 19, schoolie size taken on the bottom on salty dogs tipped with squid, incoming best. Sanppers are all over the place on spearing and small tins. Good showing of crabs on Sunday in traps with killies, bunker and squid bait. Blues at the buoy outside the inlet on Umbrellas in 80' of water.

SAYVILLE

Dudley Young at **Young's Fishing Station** tells us that Al Morgan, Jeff Fleitman and Nick Savene had over 100 weakfish on Thursday fishing south of buoy 30 off LaSalle on squid tipped salty dogs. Lots of big fluke off ocean beach and west of Ocean Beach. Very few kingfish and blowfish spotted.

WEST SAYVILLE

Mary at **South Bay Fishing Station** reports weaks, fluke and some kings all just east of buoy 30 off LaSalle Academy. Salty dogs and squid for the weaks and fluke and skimmer clam for weakfish. The weaks are running 6-7 lbs. Blowfish all over the place, stealing all bait, with squid, clam and worms best. Marty says they're really thick and nice size. Snappers all over the place with frozen spearing working well. A few large crabs in traps.

OAKDALE

Capt. Irv of the **Big Red Fleet** reports that fluking was excellent this past week and the fleet's charters have been averaging about 30 fluke a trip. Jim Macarius and friends from Middle Island had a bonanaza of 54 fluke averaging 2 to 3 pounds. Irv said the best bait

Ed and Joe Drago and Ed Dyner took these fluke, fishing buoys 32 and 33 with killies and squid. Photo courtest of L & M Marine.

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has been a combo of fresh LOCAL squid and sand eels. All the fluke are spitting sand eels up on the deck. Capt. Irv recommended fishing on the East Bank of Fire Island Inlet from the Captree Bridge to the mouth of the Inlet. Small schools of bluefish in the 6 to 8 pound class are being taken between the Fire Island Bell Buoy and southeast of the pound nets in 60 feet of water. Best action has been jigging with diamond jigs or green bananas. The fish just won't take chum for some reason. Offshore there are schools and schools of bonito hitting white or yellow feathers.

BAY SHORE

Karl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** reports fluke from the Coast Guard Station to the mouth of the Inlet, best at the top of the flood. Fish are mostly keepers, taking sand eels and squid. Blues in Snake Hill Channel and at the Mouth of F.I. Inlet with a few weaks mixed in with the blues. The weaks are between 6 and 10 lbs on Diamond jigs, Umbrellas and Green bananas. Weaks are also taking live snapper baits and are being pulled out of the deep holes at the Lighthouse and the coast Guard Station. Some bass were sighted chasing bunker under the Mosses Bridge one morning last week. A trigger fish was taken on the inside Reef. Blues southwest of the inlet in 70 feet of water on Umbrellas, green bananas and 6 oz. Ava jigs. Trolling is producing better than chuming. Fish are from 8-15 lbs - Chummers are doning better south of Cholera. Snappers are getting bigger and are all over the bay hitting spearing. Big crabs off the Bayshore Dock and the Maple Ave. Dock.

EAST ISLIP

Lou Lombardi, who's the owner of Tudor Homes, which is known for the quality homes they build, called Sunday night with a real fish story. Fishing with Pat Hirt off Cranes Neck on Sunday night at dusk they saw a shark pass the boat that had an estimated distance of 15 feet between the tail fin and the dorsal fin.

OAK BEACH

Ken at **THE Store** reports lots of fluke and weaks early in the day, with sand eels working best on the fluke. This is basically all up and down the Inlet. The weaks that are mixed in are big sized as evidenced by Tom Burns who took 24 weaks one morning last week up to 7 lbs at the Sore Thumb fishing from his boat. This was on Tri-fin whiptails. The fluking is holding up very well.

CAPTREE

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** reports the fluking continues good to excellent from the Robert Moses Bridge to the west. Between 150 and 250 keepers are boated each day. Best area is between buoys 16. The buoy 2 dropoff is good this week also. Killies, sand eels and fluke belly work best. The **Queen's** afternoon trip this weekend was good, not affected catch wise by the showers.

Anthony Micolo took this 80 lb. white marlin along with a 53 lb. mako and a 411 lb. dusky, fishing 190 degrees from the point in 32 fathoms of water aboard the "Mistress Too" out of Montauk.

Saturday's afternoon trip saw a 9 lb. 8 oz. net jammer taken, the largest so far by Bronx angler Paul Sternschein.

Capt. Neil of the **Lady Ann** reports that fishing this week and weekend was good-excellent. Friday night's charter had 141 blues. Saturday night charter had 213 blues.

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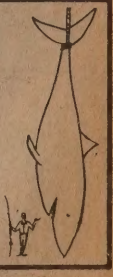

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Charterboat VIVIENNE — (516) 668-5130

Sunday's 4 P.M. reservation trip saw 4-9 bluefish per man for seven fares. Saturday's fluke trip for the Wonder Anglers came to 152 fluke and Sunday's charter for Post Fishing Club saw 247 fluke in the bag. Fluking is best at the last of the flood on killies and sand eels. The blues are spread out offshore with the best being 80 to 90 feet of water south/southeast of the inlet. Daytime it's green bananas and night time it's bait and chum.

Capt. Bob Joseph of the Capt. Joseph Fleet reported that the fluke fishing is still very

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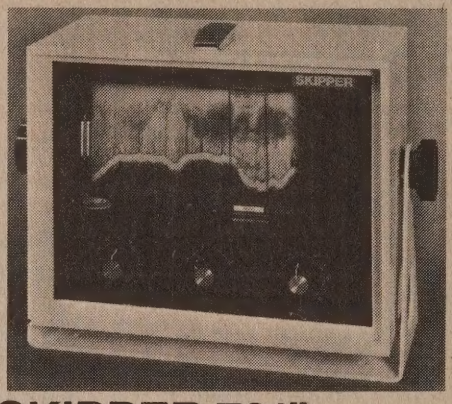

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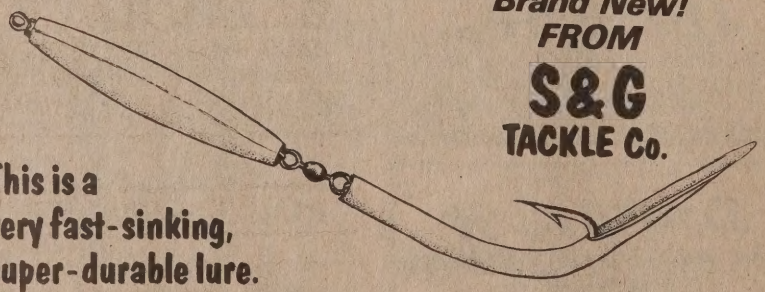

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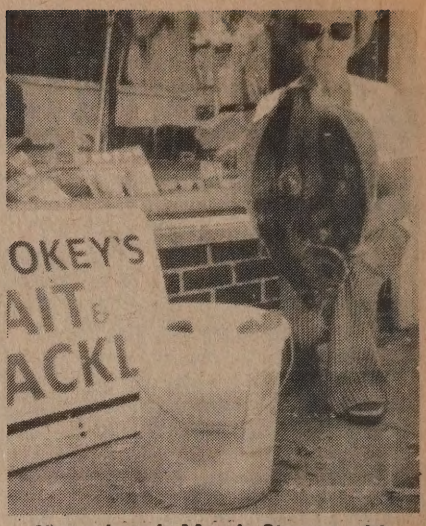

Shown here is Margie Stevens with a fluke of 6 lbs. 1 oz. taken by Lester Stevens at the inlet west of Robert Moses Bridge. Photo courtesy of Smokey's Bait and Tackle.

good around the inlet area. Bluefishing has also been very good for fish ranging from 6 to 12 pounds and they are only 40 minutes from the inlet. On Friday night 125 blues were taken and on Sat. night the score was over 300.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** reported good bluefishing all week at night. Earlier in the week fishing was concentrated down west in the Three Sisters Wreck area. One night the average catch per man was 20 to 30 bluefish and the rest of the nights he averaged 6 to 10 fish per man. On Thurs. night all the blues were 8 to 14 pounds, with the rest of the nights producing fish in the 6 to 8 lb. category. Friday night fishing was a little picky for some reason. Fluking has been very good around the inlet with average catches of 6 to 12 fish per man.

Charterboat **Yankee** called to inform us that the night bluefishing off Fire Island has been very good and that catches are being made only one hour from the inlet. Sunday's daytime trip scored with both chum and using bananas. Bob says that a lot of fish have moved "closer to home", which means less riding time and more fishing time. Saturday's fluking was very good at the last of the ebb, and the begining of the flood. Bob says that the single reservation trips are doing very well and that he will have the labor day weekend day and night trips available. Watch the **Yankee** ad for details.

BABYLON

Mario at **Hi-Hook Fishing Station** reports Saturday was a very good fluke day with some blows, seabass mixed in, fluke going up to 3¾ lbs. All of his skiffs are returning with good catches, mainly from the Coast Guard Station or Snake Hill Channel. The fluke are gobling up sand eels, spearing and squid baits. Sunday was a little slower to the tune of 4-5 fish per man. One customer had 47 crabs with a scoop net at Fox Creek.

Augie's Bait and Tackle reports the Snapper Derby was won by John Trentalange with a 3¾ oz snapper which is being mounted free, courtesy of Fish Unlimited Taxidermy. Oscar Rosenblum of North Babylong bagged an 8 lb 2 oz fluke at the Sore Thumb on killies Saturday. Generally, between 6-12 fluke per man are being caught plus a lot of short fish. Small blues being taken just outside the inlet on umbrellas. Bigger blues are being trolled offshore on feathers, spoons and bananas in

Shown here are Connie Smith and Kathleen Murray with a catch of 25 large weaks and six chopper blues, taken on a recent trip aboard the "Pina IV.

65' of water and up, fish up to 14 lbs. Also, oceanic bonito are being taken on umbrellas along with the blues. All quiet on the tuna front, except for the Canyon. Crabbing is slow, but plenty of snappers.

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait and Tackle reports loads of fluke still swimming around the length of F.I. Inlet hitting on sand eels, squid, live killies and combinations thereof. Lots of weaks thoughout the inlet with the best bait being live snapper then squid strips. A lot of blues from 60' on out on green bananas and white umbrellas. Lots of snappers around and just a few crabs.

The Sea Horse II reports that the fishing has been good with a steady pick of 3 to 4 fluke per man of mixed size. Best action has been had at the change of tide in the inlet area with killies and strip baits.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle reports very good action all week with fluke being caught on killies, sandeels, and squid. Best areas are Four Corners, F.I. Inlet and both sides of the Meadowbrook Bridge. Lots of small blues off Unqua Pt. and at the Amityville Cut up to 7 lbs 2 ozs. this week. Ont angler had 60 one day and 20 the next, fishing small Rebels. Green bananas and white umbrellas tied to wire on the outside for the blues. Snappers all over the bays. Fair crabbing. Blows and sand porgies at the Copiague Beaches and the Copiague Hole and toward Babylon. Has heard of some bass on bellies, nothing more specific. Some weakfish on sand worms at Democratic Pt. for surf casters.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle reports weaks and blues in Filnlet on tubes and Umbrellas, while the best fluking is from the bridge to the inlet and also around Squaw Island. Snappers are all over the place in the dock, canals, etc.

The charterboat **Apus** called to say that Saturday's bluefish charter for Vince Loverty and party came up with 32 blues from 3 to 6 pounds trolling umbrellas in 60 feet of water. The place and method was repeated with Carl Sacco and party on Sunday for 45 blues from 3 to 6 pounds.

SEAFORD

Salice Fishing Station reports that his boats had very very good catches all week and weekend to the tune of 10 to 12 keeper fluke per skiff. The largest fluke came in at 4 lbs 9 ozs. Best areas are from Four Corners to the third breidge and from the Wantagh and Meadowbrook Bridge on sand eels, squid and killies. Some nice weaks on live snapper at the third bridge and at Black Banks to 7 lbs in the early morning. Some small blues mixed in also. Fluking is super, Charlie reiterated.

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle tells us that on Friday Rick Vollner of Massapequa caught a 13½ lb. fluke on a live snapper near Zach's Bay and also took a 4 lb. weakfish on the same trip. On Wednesday, Phil Ferrara of Massapequa and four members of his family had 47 keeper fluke between Zach's Bay and the 3rd bridge on sand eels and killies. This was all in the first two hours of the ebb. Snappers are all over the place. Blues outside are also very good though very spotty at times. Mike Schwartz of Massapequa fishing south of the HA bagged a 48 lb. mako during the week. Lon says all in all, the fishing now is good-very good for everything in season.

BELLMORE

Roy at **Merrick Marine Supplies** tells us tha Bob Porter on the "Shark" took first in the Freeport Fishing Festival with a 483 lb Mako shark. Plenty of big fluke in F.I. Inlet and medium fluke in Jones Inlet on sand eels, squid, of killie squid combos. Bass is very spotty with just a few fish being chummed. Blues at Jones Inlet at night and trolled during the day at about the 45' line. Lots of dolphin way out for bluefish trollers. An 8 lb 6 oz dolphin was weighed in for Glen Grippo of South Bellmore.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports that fluke were caught this last weekend in Broad and Haunts Creek and at the Coast Guard Station. A few weakfish were mixed in at the Coast Guard. Lots of snappers around. All week was good fishing except for the rainy days. Sunday was a little slow due to the heavy boat traffic. Jimmy weighed in a 15 lb Dolphin taken at the Mudhole by Merrick angler Bob Ehmann. A 31 lb striper was chummed in the State Channel in the early morning this week by an angler who did not leave his name. A few flounder have been taken in Swift Creek from the holes off the houses. These fish are nice sized.

This Sunday's wreck fishing trip on the Freeport charterboat "Nite Owl". Capt. Joe Long took 400 lbs of cod and pollack at a pet offshore wreck. Photo shows just part of the catch.

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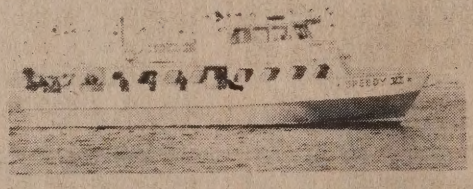

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BLUES 7 PM

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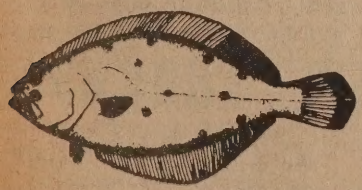

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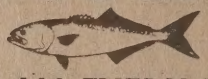

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The Captain Hall called to say his fares had very good fluking all week long and all weekend with a 10 pounder coming over the rail on Thurs. Catches of 16 and 18 fish were attained on various days during the week and the weekend saw a few fares with full buckets. The Inlet and the Creeks and Channels all produced at various stages of the tide. A lot of weaks being taken at the Meadowbrook Bridge on sand worms for those after them. It was a very good week, says Capt. Dick Hall.

The Lucky Strike III called to say that both Saturday and Sunday they enjoyed good catches of fluke fishing the mouth of Jones Inlet.

The Captain Al reports bluefishing was good all week southeast of Jones Inlet in 80' of water. Sunday was a little spotty, but all hands caught blues. The **Captain II**, Al's half day fluke boat had a 10½ lb fluke caught by Clair McKeever during the week. Good fluking was enjoyed all week long.

The Starstream II continues to enjoy fabulous bottom fishing, with the finest kind of ling and also some seabass. **LOADS** of fish. The Starstream's night bluefishing trips have been very successful with 325 blues on Saturday night. Friday was poor but Wed. and Thurs. were good, as evidensed by catches of 150,200, and 275 hungry choppers coming over the rail on the weekday night trips.

Ronnie at **Sea Isle Sports** tells us the 3 biggest fish in the Freeport Fishing Festival were a 483 lb Mako, a 450 lb tiger and a 450 lb dusky. Good fluking in the inlet on sandeels, squid and killies. Blues being trolled, jigged and chummed at Cholera. Bass and weaks are to be had drifting sand worms at night at the Meadowbrook bridge on a long leader 3' off the bottom.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports good fluking at Haunts Creek, around the Meadowbrook Bridge and the Fundy area. Killies, squid and sand eels and smelts are all working. The fluke are bigger now, two to three pounds. The July pool was taken by Larry Mass with a 4 lb. 1 oz. fluke, good for the $70 cash prize. Lots of porgies at the Meadowbrook Bridge rocks along with some sea bass. Snappers are plentiful all over and blue claws around the docks.

Mako Marina reports the outstanding catch of the week was a 58 and a half pound blue marlin taken by Joe Masone on Saturday trolling at the Hudson Canyon on his boat "Debra."

The Blue Fin Fleet reports good action in general over the past week. The **Blue Fin II** fishing for blues weekdays took fish from 4 to 9 pounds southwest of Cholera. Victor Donato was high hook for the week with 13 fish. On Sat. and Sun. the boat fished the inlet for fluke with sand eels and squid with an average catch of 7 to 8 per person and the pool fish running near 5 pounds. The best action has been during incoming tide and the captain said that it seems that a new school of fluke have moved into the area. Jim Hastings of the Wonderbar Fishing Club had 14 keepers on Sunday. Capt. Charlie Adams of the **Blue Fin** had excellent fluke fishing on Saturday with an average of 80 to 90 fish taken for the day. On Sunday he fished for blues in 120' of water southeast of the inlet and took fish up to 15 pounds. When one fish was opened, found inside was a whole

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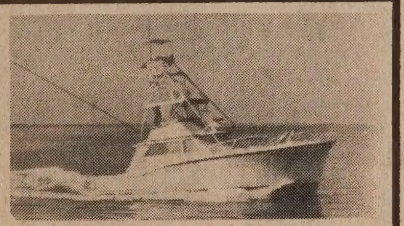

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Werner Schuster of West Islip caught this prize 36 inch mako for a mount. The shark was caught aboard Capt. Arnold's "Shallidon in 150 ft. of water SE of Jones Inlet.

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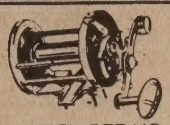

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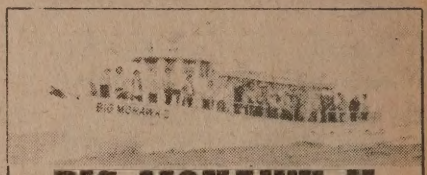

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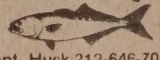

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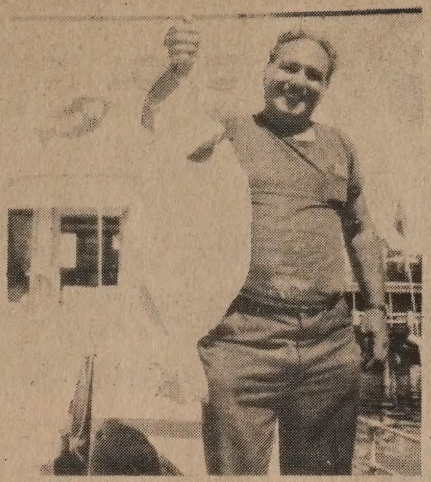

Anthony Friscia of Ozone Park caught this 10 lb. fluke aboard the "Capt. Lou II" on a killie and squid combo in Jones Inlet.

mackerel of 1½ pounds.

The **Aloma II** reports excellent fluke fishing in Jones Inlet with average catches of 5 to 15 fish from 2 to 5 pounds per person taken. The **Aloma** is doing a good job on the sea bass with average catches of 15 to 20 sea bass to 2 pounds per person along with nice sized ling.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports that Chris, Anthony and Dominick Utano along with Joe Pilanero took 34 fluke drifting in the inlet on Thursday with killies. Trollers are still doing good on the fluke in the flats with sharpies taking up to 20 fish. The Meadowbrook Bridge is producing sand porgies, lafayettes, blacks and sea bass. Snappers are in the bay and are plentiful. Some bluefish are being taken with surgical tubes off the Jones Beach Tower.

Scotty's Marina reports very good fluke fishing in the inlet and at the Loop Bridge with the average fish weighing 2 pounds and running up to 4. The fish are hitting best on killies and sand eels. Bluefish are being taken along the beach and off the jetty casting Hopkins. These choppers are averaging 2 pounds. Bass have been reported to be taken at the Coast Guard Station. Snappers are in full force and are getting bigger in size.

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Contest Rules & Regulations

1. DATES-- The Contest will begin at midnight on May 1st and end at midnight on October 31st, 1977. Fish must be caught during this time frame and be confirmed as a new World Record by the International Gamefish Association (I.G.F.A.) no later than February 1st, 1978.

2. ENTRY FEE--There is no entry fee to participate in the Contest. The only requirement is that you MUST have been a subscriber of The Long Island Fisherman for at least 30 DAYS before the date that a fish was caught. Immediate members of a subscriber's family are also eligible if they are living together in the same household. Example: Mother, father, brother, sister, daughter, son.

3. ELIGIBLE SPECIES--The Contest has ten (10) eligible species: five inshore and five offshore. They are:

Inshore--	Offshore--
FLUKE	BLUE SHARK
WEAKFISH	MAKO SHARK
STRIPED BASS	WHITE SHARK
BLUEFISH	SWORDFISH
BLACKFISH	WHITE MARLIN

4. RULES--The winner of the Contest will be determined by fish caught by subscribers of The Long Island Fisherman that are recognized as new World Records by the I.G.F.A. The following rules will apply:
   a. Fish must be one of the ten eligible species
   b. Catch must be made sometime between midnight May 1st and midnight October 31st, 1977.
   c. Fish must be taken in Long Island Waters.
   d. All catches must be made under the rules and regulations set up by the I.G.F.A. These rules and regulations will be printed in the May 5th issue of The Long Island Fisherman and will be available after that date for any angler sending in a self-addressed envelope to The Fisherman.
   e. The catch must be CONFIRMED as a new World Record by the I.G.F.A. by February 1, 1978.
   f. New records can be for any of the I.G.F.A. line classes: 6-lb., 12-lb., 20-lb., 30-lb., 50-lb., 80-lb., 130-lb., or All Tackle, for both Men and Women.

5. WEIGH-STATIONS--Any of the Long Island Fisherman Official Weigh-in Stations may be used for a PRELIMINARY weigh-in of a possible world

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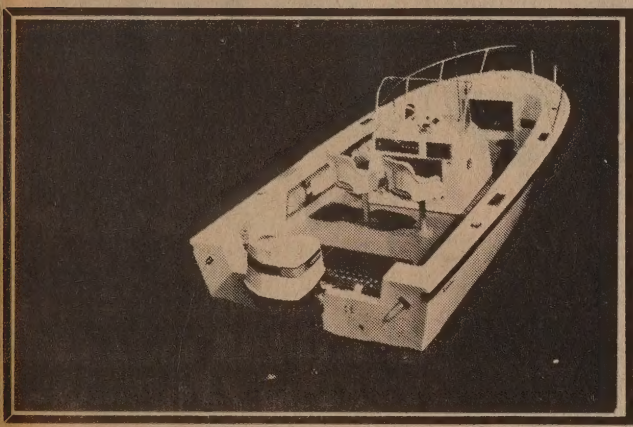

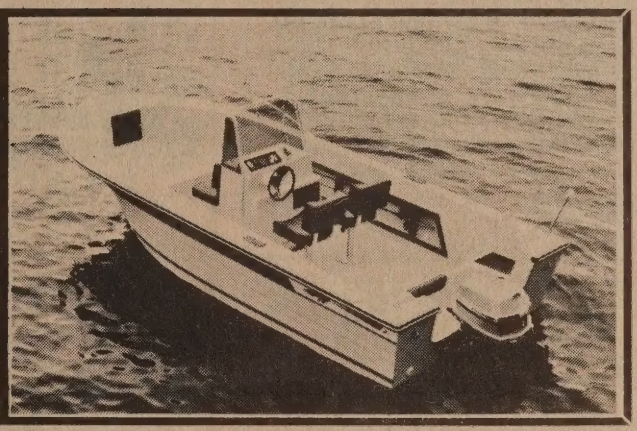

record fish. If it appears that the fish is a possible record, it must then be OFFICIALLY weighed in at STARFISH MARINE in East Islip, New York. After the Official Weigh-In Starfish Marine will prepare the necessary record applications that must be sent to the I.G.F.A. It is the anglers responsibility to transport his catch to and from Starfish Marine.

CURRENT RECORDS--For the convenience of eligible anglers, the current recognized records by the I.G.F.A. will be published in the May 5th issue of The Long Island Fisherman. Periodic updates of new records set while the contest is in progress will also be published in the pages of The Fisherman.

TIES--In the event that more than one subscriber sets a new World Record, the winner will be decided by the following criteria:

a. The angler setting the most I.G.F.A. records during the contest will be the winner.
b. In the event that no angler sets more than one record, but two or more anglers set a single record, the following point system will be utilized to place the winners:
    1. One point will be scored for each percentage point that the new record beat the previously held record, based on weight. Example: If the new record is 25 lbs. and the old record was 20 lbs., the new record is 25% more weight. Score 25 points.
    2. One point will also be scored for every year that prior record existed. Example: If the old record was set in May 1967 and the new record is set in 1977, score 10 points.

8. PRIZES--The Grand Prize will be the winners choice of a 1978 Grady White Center Console or a Mako 20, which will be awarded by Starfish Marine. If more than one new I.G.F.A. approved World Record is set, there will be a consolation prize for the 2nd highest point fish of $500, 3rd highest $250 and $50 for each additional record.

9. JUDGES--The decision of the judges will be final.

10. Employees of Starfish Marine or The Long Island Fisherman and their immediate family members are prohibited from participating in the Contest. Anglers that have had an article published in The Fisherman within the past three years are also ineligible.

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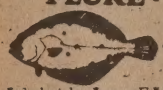

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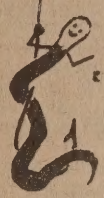

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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

ISLAND PARK

The Commodore reports that Reynolds Channel has been producing some nice fishing with an average of 12 fish per person during the week. On the weekend, he fished Jones Inlet and took some nice fluke mostly from 2 to 4 pounds. The pool fish ran 4 pounds and the average catch of 5-6 fish was taken on sand eels, spearing and strip baits.

Beckmann's Tackle reports bluefishing has been slow with small fish being taken outside of Deb's and Jones Inlet out to Cholera. Weakfish are being taken off Long Beach and Rockaway Beach. Bass are around the bridges and are taking eels, clam chum and a high hook with sandworms. Fluking has improved in the area and porgies and snappers are plentiful.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt. Ronnie Lepper of the **Kim** reports smaller but decent bass at Breezy Pt. on umbrellas on a shark charter this week, Ronnie had 3 Makos and boated 2 fishing southeast of the Ha. Sharking has been steadier this week and more consistent.

Dan Pollera of the Keystone Yacht Club, Woodmere, took a 12 lb. 9 oz. dolphin fishing ten miles south of the HA last Sunday.

George at **Hennings Fishing Station** reports the Hudson Canyon Tournament taken by Jesse York on his boat "J J" with 4 tigers in the 200 lb. class and 13 pollack up to 30 pounds. Dolphin, yellowfin tuna were taken by many of the boats fishing the canyon. Very good fluking in Reynolds Channel, 20 for one skiff, fish going up to 3 pounds in the area of the High School on sand eels, squid and spearing. A few stripers, blues and weaks up the beach to the Tin Can on umbrellas.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports that Nick Pinero of Manhattan took 3 weakfish at the North Channel Bridge running over 6 pounds on sandworms and bunker right off the bottom. Snappers are being taken hot and heavy with spearing. Porgy fishing is still doing very well and fluke fishing is spotty.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Sal at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** tells of very good bluefishing all along the N.J. coast and the Klondike area on jigs, bananas and bait. The fluking has improved from the Tin Can Grounds to Sandy Hook. The fish are mostly bigger now with very few midgets. Giant blues at Norton's Pt. fished on the bottom with bunker chunks. Some porgies at the Tin Can with weakfish trolled and jigged at Staten Island and Sandy Hook Channel. Plenty of snappers in the bay and some stripers being trolled at the Tin Can on umbrellas.

The New Eagle reports that fluke fishing was a slow pick on Saturday. On Sunday good catches were had inside the bay with the pool fish going over 6 pounds. On Friday and Sat. nights the boat loaded up with bluefish. These fish ran 10 pounds and up and were taken at the Three Sisters Wreck on smelts and butterfish.

The **Dorothy B** reports that the fluke fishing was good from Monday thru Thursday. Sat. was tough fishing but things started improving again on Sunday. During the week an average of 8 fish from 2 to 7 pounds was had per person. The fishing was done at Sandy Hook, in the channels and at the Tin Can Grounds.

The **Blue Sea III** reports that bluefishing on Sunday was good with an average of 6 to 10 fish per man taken. The fish averaging 10 to 12 pounds were taken not far from the Monster Ledge on jigs and bananas. Saturday was the first break in the fishing and the boat is now taking 100 fish per day.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that blues from 8 to 15 pounds are being taken on cut bait at South Beach and the Berger Avenue storm sewers. Bass and weaks are being produced in the last two hours of outgoing and the first two hours of incoming tide. Snappers are plentiful all over and Great Kills Harbor seems to be the best. Princess Bay is producing weaks up to 5 pounds and blues to 3 pounds. Weakfish can also be taken at the VZ Bridge from 6 to 8 pounds worming the outgoing tide.

GREENPORT

The **Wilhelric** reports that fishing at Gardiner's Island is fair to good with an average catch of 40 fish running from 1 - 1½ lbs. The pool is usually taken by a 4 or 5 lb fluke or blackfish.

A.P.WHITE BAIT AND REPORTS PLENTY OF PORGIES ON EITHER SIDE OF Gardiners Island. Fluke fishing holding up east of the Ruins boats out bluefishing over the weekend didn't do so good. A few weakfish in the channel next to the Greenport Jetty. Loads of snapper blues off all the docks. Bass were good on a couple of days last week but the weekend was slow. One of the best winds for drifting in Plum Gut and by Old Silas Rock is a moderate southwest breeze.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reported sand porgies at buous 12 and 17. You might do a little better size wise around South Ferry. Truman's beach is the place for fluke. For porgies out in the sound try Rocky Point. Blackfish on the sound side are the smaller variety. Snapper blues now out in force. If you poke around the bay at first light there's a chance for a few weakfish.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that porgies are being taken in the South

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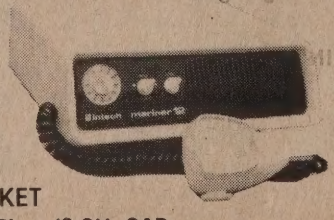

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Race and Roses Grove area from buoys 18 to 30. Weakfish, porgies and kingfish can be caught in Cutchogue Harbor-buoy 1. The weakfish can be taken on worms and squid. Jose Vazquez, Julio Berenguer and Pete Henriquez all from New York City took 220 porgies from ¾ to 1½ lbs and 9 weakfish up to 3 lbs close to shore in the Roses Grove area. John and Joe Kusen took 19 weakfish to 6 lbs in the Roses Grove area on worms and squid.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle Center reported a lot of porgies in the bay. Last Saturday three fellows stopped in to show off a catch of 300 porgies. A few weakfish in the bay, but you'll have to put in the time. Only two small school bass weighed in all last week. These were taken off the sound side dunking worms at night from the shore. Blues out at buoy 5 for wire liners. No blackfish reports. Snapper blues are almost everywhere to wet a line.

JAMESPORT

Jamesport Bait and Tackle reports that porgies are all over with porgies up to 3 lbs being taken west of Robins Island and weaks of 5 and 6 lbs in the same area. Bluefish from 1-4 lbs are in the sound and can be taken on rubber tubing. Umbrellas are working best and buoy 5 is the hot spot. Snappers are plentiful on both sides. Stripers are being caught in the Gut on green bucktails with white pork rind. The fish are averaging 8 or 9 lbs but have run up to 30. A few weakfish have been taken in the sound and some good action should start up soon.

ROCKY POINT

The **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** reports that porgies and snappers are plentiful in the area. Fluke are being taken at buoys 7 and 11 with sand eels, spearing and squid. Blues up to 6½ lbs are being taken deep off the drop offs at buoys 9 and 11. These fish occasionally hit the beaches at night and are mixed in with weakfish. Some weakfish have been taken off Mt. SINAI Harbor trolling white tubes at dawn and dusk. These fish are averaging 4-5 lbs.

SELDEN

Angler's Den reports that the sound is loaded with porgies to 1½ lbs anywhere from Cedar Beach to Wading River. Fluke are being taken at Mt. Misery Shoals and at buoys 7 and 9. Weakfish are hitting the beaches at night and are taking drifted sand worms. White Beach has been the hot spot with fish averaging 5½- 7½ lbs and are being taken in 6-20 feet of water. Marty Feinstein took a 9 lb 14 oz bluefish fishing Fire Island Inlet. Al Pirro took 18 fluke to 5 lbs at buoy 9. Tommy Palazzo took a 7½ lb weakfish at White Beach.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that there are plenty of good sized porgies being taken straight off the harbor and at buoy 9. Weakfish are in the same area and are being caught while porgy fishing. Fluke are being taken drifting at buoy 11, and outside the harbor. Buoy 9 is producing blues from 2-4 lbs trolling umbrellas. The darker colors seem to be working better.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports that porgies are being taken at the Old Field Lighthouse. Snappers are plentiful in the area. Bluefish are being wire lined with red and white umbrella rigs during the first and last 2 hours of light at buoy 9. These fish are averaging 2-3 lbs with an occasional 5 pounder. Eighteen year old Jim Gladysz of Port Jeff Station fished buoy 9 on Saturday with umbrella rigs and came up with a 15 lb king mackeral. Schoolie bass are being taken at night at Crane's Neck and Old Field. These fish are running from keepers to teens with an occasional 20 pounder. You can catch these fish by floating worms or casting lures. Weakfish are being taken in the last 2 hours of daylight with a hi-hook rig with worm and squid at Mt. Misery Pt. The fishing here has been consistent and the fish are averaging 5-12 lbs. Good fluking has started in the area with an average catch of from 8-30 fish from 1½-2 lbs. These fish are being taken drifting from the entrance of the harbor to buoy 11 on the outgoing tide with sand eels.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports there is a tremendous amount of baitfish from the mouth of the River to Callahan's Beach. There are big schools of bunker off Sunken Meadow Park, also schools of small mackeral and big sand eels. This should make for some good fishing in the next week or so. On Sunday, Walter Andrews used a popping plug to catch a blue of 13 lbs 4 ozs. West of the mouth of the river on Monday morning a customer named Marty was catching blues to 8 lbs off Sunken Meadow casting Rebel plugs. The bottom fishing remains fair to good. On Thursday Bob fished Mt. Misery Shoals with Howie Burke and his son and caught 6 fluke to 3 lbs in one hour's time.

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On Tuesday Kevin Motherway and Bob Donoghue took 12 fluke in the same spot. Thursday, Emanuel Karalis of Middle Village had a bushel of porgies off Callahan's. One of the youngest snapper fishermen brought in the year's first oddity, a banded rudder fish.

CENTEREACH

Chuck at the **Bait Bucket** tells us that Steve Paci drifting squid and killies on the flood at Fire Island Lighthouse took 15 keeper fluke

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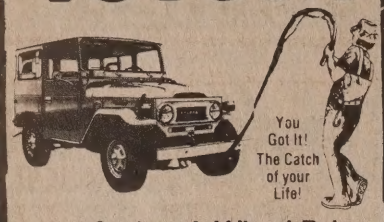

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Dolores Gelsomine and Maria Pereira with 15 and 16 pound bluefish caught on 10 lb. test aboard the "Striper Hawk".

up to 11 pounds on Saturday. Jim Romano and Bob Cuccio had weaks up to 8 pounds fishing sandworms at buoy 11, Pt. Jeff. Vic Macaluso had catches of weaks working Mt. Misery Shoals with drifted sandworms on Sat. night. Dave and Pat Duffy of Selden took 174 snappers off the Patchogue Town Dock with spearing on Sunday.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** reported Can 13 was the hot spot last week for blues and fluke. Trolling produced best for the blues although some fish hit diamond jigging. Sizes went 10-14 pounds. Last Friday at 8 pm Bob Urda, Tom Dannella and Ed Gaffman teamed up for a 13½ lb blue. Gene Hedberg got a 7½ lb fluke at Eaton's. Some weakfish at Lloyd's Neck for worm trollers. Bass fishing was limited to clam chumming working between high and two hours down. You had to fish 7 days steady to come up with any fish. The once-a-weeker came in empty 99% of the time.

HUNTINGTON

Four Winds Tackle reports that fluke have moved into the area on Sat. and Sun. and are being taken in good size at Diamond Pt. Robert Tunson took a 7 lb 1 oz fluke, Dr. Peter Ravitz took a 7 lb 1 oz fluke, John Tarlin took a fluke of 6 lb 8 oz and Andy Hoffman won the Huntington Angler's Fluke Derby with an 8 pounder. George is also weighing in many fish in the 4-5 pound range. The fluke are hitting sand eels, spearing, squid, snappers, etc. The outgoing tide has been producing most of the big ones. Weakfish are being taken on umbrella and jigs about 1 hr before sundown at Diamond Pt. Blues running 10 lbs and

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PORGIE/SEABASS KILLER RIGS—Fill your sack. These proven rigs have 3 needle-sharp Mustad hooks tied in at the right heights to assure big catches. Hand-tied, finest quality materials. 3 for $3.50. P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

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STINGER FLUKE RIGS. Catch those short strikers! This tandem STINGER HOOK, test proven by the Montauk Pros, is adjustable for most baits. 3 for $3. Send to: JOHN RAGUSO, 86-45 St. James Ave., Elmhurst, N.Y. 11373.

FISHERMEN—Cast your own sinkers, jigs, net leads, casting, and spinning lures with Sweet's Aluminum Molds. Send $1.00 for catalog. Refunded with first order. Sweet's Molds, Box 127, Springville, New York 14141.

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CAPTAIN WANTED—Must have thorough knowledge of Montauk waters and must have minimum 25 gross ton license. Call 516-549-5112.

LECTURE AND FILMS on Shark Fishing at Montauk, by Captain Frank Mundus of Montauk's CRICKET II. Meet the author of MONSTER MAN and SHARK MAN. Lecture will be at the Fine Arts Theatre, Southampton College, Route 27A, Southampton. The date is AUGUST 19, 1977 at 8:30 PM. Adults admission - $3. Children 12 and under, $1.50. For information, call: 516-283-4000, Ext. 215.

LACKING IMAGINATION? Don't give that fish away! 14 Saltwater Fish recipes, including clam chowder. $1.00 plus 25 cents Postage and Handling, to: J. Galletto, 7 Dwight Court, Islip, N.Y. 11751.

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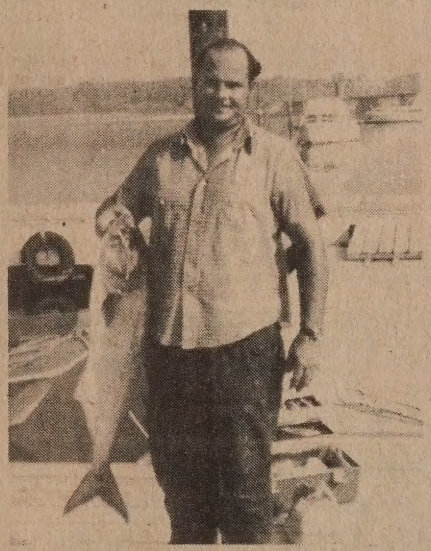
over can be caught on bunker and umbrella rigs at Eaton's Neck and at buoy 15 off Lloyd's Pt. Adam Nogrady took a 26 lb bass on Friday night trolling worms at Eaton's. He came back on Saturday with Ray O'Connell who took a 22½ lb bass. There is a large concentration of porgies from Marshall Field to Lloyd's Pt. Snappers are plentiful and can be found almost anywhere.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports that fluke fishing has been very good drifting sand eels, squid, snappers, and spearing off Diamond Pt. Tony Shershenovich of Greenlawn took a 33 lb bass casting white bucktails at Eaton's Neck. This was the largest of 7 fish he caught Sunday morning. Richie Bilanski took a 23½ lb bass at Eaton's Neck on mackeral chunks. Joe Lupinachi took a 9 lb 10 oz weakfish drifting squid at Eaton's Neck.



Quanto Batista caught this 15½ lb. bluefish off the end of City Island on live bunker. Photo courtest of Jack's Bait and Tackle.

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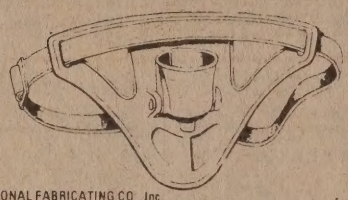
The Long Island FISHERMAN CONTEST

FISHING TRIP

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.



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★ Bonus Prize ★

Contest winners also will receive a NAFABCO GIMBAL ROD BELT, the new lightweight unbreakable plastic gimbal for boat & surf!

LAST WEEK'S WINNER:

There was no winner this week for our contest, so next week's winner shall receive $20 instead of the usual $10 plus a free fishing trip for two aboard a boat of his/her choice.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:

8605-JN

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ace
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
Marlin III	Capt. Joseph Fleet	FREEPORT Aloma II	

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Full Line of Custom Rods, Complete Rod & Reel Repairs,
Complete Stock of All Penn Reel Parts from smallest to 16/0

We Can Help Turn Your Hobby Into A 12 Month Season!!!

Snappers are all over and can be caught on shiners and small tins. Some large porgies can be caught at Eaton's and Lloyd Pt. drifting sandworms and clams.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reported porgies the hot item. Mostly medium fish. Blues are scarse with maybe one day out of 7 seeing fish in the area. Last Tuesday there was a school off the north end of Hart's Island. One guy managed 14. The next day there was only a few fish and the day after that, nothing. No big bass around. That's been the story all season. If you want fluke, you have to try Prospect Pt. and locations eastward.

GROTON

Capt. Brad Glas of the charter boat **Hel-Cat** reported the fluke fishing slacked off during the early part of last week on the end of the moon tides, but as the week progressed, the fishing got better until the weekend when there was a fair pick of fish all day long. Pool winners are going around 6 lbs with an occasional dormat thrown in for good measure.

MONTAUK HUMPBACKS

(*Continued from page 17.*)

bait will work. Vying for the first spot among baits are fresh skimmer clam and frozen squid. Both of these baits work well and it's hard to say which is better. The squid is a little tougher than the clam, and this makes it tougher for the fish to sneak off the hook. Better than the frozen squid, is the fresh squid. What we'll usually do is grab one of the local draggers as he's boxing his catch of fish for the day, and toss him a couple of bucks for any stray squid he may have taken. During the summer months, squid are quite abundant around Montauk waters and getting a pail full is no problem. Fresh squid is just about as tough as shoe leather and stays on the hook extremely well. This is a far superior bait than the frozen variety. Another sleeper is fresh conch. When the bergalls are thick—and this is true around the wrecks—they will make short work of squid and clam baits—even the fresh variety. The conch, favored by the offshore wreck codfisherman, is sliced into thin slivers about two inches long, and a half-inch wide when put on the hook. As far as the squid and clams go, you can use a generous serving on each hook; with a skimmer, cut it up into thirds, and for the squid, a three-inch by half-inch strip should be sufficient.

When the sea bass hits the bait, he gives you a pretty good tug; so all you have to do is yank back. You don't have to hit him as quick as you would a porgy, but don't wait too long, or you'll be donating free food all day.

If you're going to fish at anchor, you can increase your catch by chumming with a weighted chum pot. Few people, except the commercial boys chum, and this should tell you something. If there are only a few fish around, then chumming won't help you and may, in fact, hurt the fishing. On the other hand, if it seems there's a lot of fish around, chumming will help. You can use two types of chum in the pot to get things going. The first is the old favorite—clam bellies; while the other is the kept quiet, bunker chum. Bunker chum is far superior, for it will draw the fish to the area and not fill them up. Clam bellies will draw the fish, but it will also give them something solid to eat. As the bunker chum disperses into the current, the sea bass pick up the scent, but there are only tiny particles of chum in the water. The best thing to do here is to freeze either the clam bellies or bunker chum in two-pound coffee cans and keep them in the cooler on ice and use them as needed. As the chum thaws out, it will flow gradually from the chum pot and not pour out all at once.

The sea bass put up a very spirited battle, despite the somewhat heavy tackle often used to catch them. They are very beautiful to look at, especially those big humpbacked ones: their fins are white tipped, and the top of the body is an iridescent blue-purple, while the rest of the body is jet black. As for a finer tasting fish, you will have to search far and wide to find one. Amongst the Oriental peoples, big sea bass is a delicacy having no peer. I would have to agree with them 100 percent.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	5:53	6:16	6:54	7:18	6:47	7:06	7:46	7:57	10:16	10:24	9:37	9:53	6:02	6:20	8/11
FRI	6:40	7:01	7:39	7:58	7:35	7:49	8:27	8:38	10:56	10:59	10:23	10:36	6:50	7:05	8/12
SAT	7:25	7:43	8:21	8:37	8:16	8:28	9:06	9:15	11:27	11:20	11:05	11:18	7:35	7:46	8/13
SUN.	8:06	8:23	8:59	9:16	8:55	9:06	9:44	9:56	10:45	10:50	11:45	11:59	8:14	8:25	8/14
MON	8:47	9:05	9:37	9:54	9:33	9:42	10:22	10:35	—	12:13	—	12:24	8:53	9:04	8/15
TUE	9:28	10:07	10:16	10:32	10:10	10:20	11:01	11:15	12:23	12:45	12:38	1:03	9:32	9:42	8/16
WED	10:11	10:29	10:56	11:12	10:51	11:00	11:43	11:59	1:03	1:24	1:08	1:42	10:14	10:23	8/17
THUR.	10:56	11:14	11:39	11:55	11:33	11:43	—	12:26	1:45	2:08	2:03	2:26	11:00	11:08	8/18

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

8/4	5:56	8:15
8/9	6:01	8:09
8/14	6:06	8:02
8/19	6:12	7:55
8/24	6:17	7:47
8/29	6:22	7:39

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
8/14	8/22	8/28	8/6

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	2:20	**8:55**	2:50	**9:20**
FRI.	3:05	**9:40**	3:35	**10:05**
SAT.	3:50	**10:25**	4:20	**10:50**
SUN.	4:35	**11:10**	5:05	**11:35**
MON.	5:20	**11:55**	5:50	—
TUES.	6:10	**12:25**	6:40	**12:45**
WED.	6:55	**1:20**	7:30	**1:45**
THURS.	8:00	**2:15**	8:25	**2:40**

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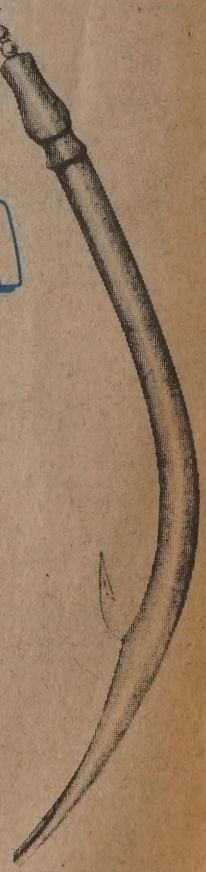

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Available colors are:
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AVA TACKLE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SELECT SIZES AND COLORS.

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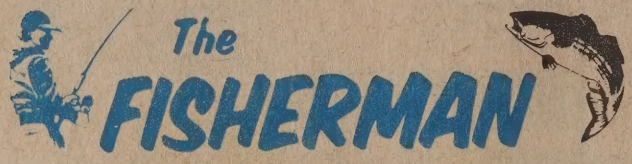

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